



County Administrative Office Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Mr. David Kim, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Comments by the County of San Bernardino on the draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure

Dear Secretary Kim,

The County of San Bernardino appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) prepared by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). San Bernardino County is the largest county geographically in the continental United States (over 20,000 square miles) and is home to approximately 2.2 million residents.

The draft CAPTI has been very professionally prepared, and covers a number of topics that are important to the state and to the County. We appreciate the working relationship we have had with CalSTA over many years and trust that these comments will be helpful as we seek to implement a world-class transportation system that promotes environmental and economic sustainability and equity for all of our residents. The San Bernardino Countywide Vision is a centerpiece of our sustainability activities. The Vision is very consistent with the direction of the draft CAPTI and has given San Bernardino County an important foundation for the activities that have been undertaken since that time. An Equity Element was added to the vision in 2020, and is in the process of being implemented.

Voters approved Measure I in 1984 and 2004 which has allowed us to move toward improvements that also address the CAPTI guiding principles quite well, a few of which include: “fix-it-first” funding for local road maintenance and safety improvements, Metrolink capital and operations support, Redlands Passenger Rail, bus rapid transit capital and operating funds, senior and disabled transit assistance, and ridesharing programs, for example. We are also well along in the implementation of new priced High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes which will, for the first time in the County, provide travel time and cost incentives for transit, vanpools, carpools, and clean air vehicles. The I-10 and I-15 priced express lane projects are an integral part of the SCAG regional express lane system. It is a critical priority for the region to build out this multimodal system so that these alternate modes can be incentivized in a comprehensive, integrated way, with support from the state.

The County has reviewed the document and has a few concerns with the implementation. The need to broaden the discussion of VMT reduction strategies, as the documents overlooks some very productive methods of reducing VMT that work across urban, suburban and rural areas alike. In looking through CAPTI, there are no references to ridesharing, no references to carpooling, only one reference to vanpooling, one reference to shared mobility, one reference to telework, and no references to transportation demand management or TDM as a general class of strategies.

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We greatly appreciate that the draft CAPTI recognizes the principle of “no one-size-fits-all.” How that principle is operationalized is of great interest to San Bernardino County, given the size, geographic diversity, diversity of our residents, and economic diversity of our county. While the entire county is considered to be in the Southern California Region (with SCAG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization) most of the county, by land area, is rural, and substantial lands in the mountains and deserts are already preserved or designated for military use. We have had several major wildfires over the years, which have severely impacted transportation, so we understand what is at stake in terms of climate change. Our request would be that the state recognize the wide range of needs and varying degrees of ability to achieve VMT reduction and transit/land use objectives

If you have any questions regarding the County’s position or would like to set up a meeting to discuss this further, please contact Amanda Meere, Governmental and Legislative Affairs Analyst, at 909 387-4280 or Amanda.Meere@cao.sbcounty.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chair, Board of Supervisors