May 17th 2021

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

Dear Secretary Kim;

Thank you for the opportunity for the Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC) to comment on the Draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) framework. We understand and appreciate Governor Newsom’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and vehicle miles traveled (VMT), the SHCC member agencies stand in partnership with the Newsom administration ready to address climate change in the transportation sector.

As you well know, our success will require creative, flexible, and pragmatic solutions to account for the unique opportunities and challenges that face each corner of our State.

Thankfully, the SHCC member agencies and the State of California have a history of successfully working together. The SHCC member agencies like to say, “Promises made, Promises kept” this simple phrase has served the SHCC agencies well in keeping the faith of the voting public which provides the resources for our expenditure plans.

SB 1, enacted in 2017 by the California Legislature and former Governor Jerry Brown, provided a dedicated State funding source to address mobility, safety and congestion on the State transportation system while also providing for the long-term maintenance of our transportation infrastructure.

The Legislature’s promise to the voters was that these dedicated resources would be used to rebuild our transportation infrastructure. In recognition of that trust, California voters rejected Proposition 6 in 2018 that sought to repeal SB 1. SB 1 has provided a series of competitive programs, (administered by the California Transportation Commission) specifically, the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, Active Transportation Program and the Local Partnership Program that, along with our local sales tax, have begun to build back California’s once crumbling infrastructure.
SHCC member agencies bring approximately $5 billion annually, combined with California’s $5 billion from SB 1 funds, position California for a historic opportunity to seek Federal investment opportunities in California’s infrastructure. Our collective commitment to addressing the funding deficit facing transportation infrastructure and climate change is unmatched in any other State in the Union.

Working together we can reduce our GHG emissions and battle the existential threat of climate change, however to do this effectively we need flexibility. We ask that the final DRAFT of the CAPTI provide flexibility to regions so that they can address all modes of transportation to maximize safety, mobility, goods movement, and throughput in order to expedite our collective response to climate change. Recognition of the varying needs of our diverse State will ensure that our State’s resources are efficiently utilized in our collective response to reducing GHG and collaboratively responding to climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft CAPTI proposal.

Sincerely,

Keith N. Dunn
Executive Director

cc: Ronda Paschal, Deputy Secretary, Governor Newsom
    Mark Tollefson, Deputy Secretary, Governor Newsom
    Hilary Norton, Chair, California Transportation Commission
    Mitch Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
    Toks Omishakin, Director, Caltrans
    Darwin Moosavi, Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
    Kate Gordon, Director, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research