June 14, 2021

The Honorable David Kim, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capital Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)

Dear Secretary Kim:

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Board of Directors support the California State Transportation Agency’s efforts in developing the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI). CAPTI provides a framework that aligns Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders on GHG reduction (N-19-19) with an accelerated transition away from fossil fuels by 2035 (EO N-79-20). We appreciate the CalSTA’s coordination with other state and local agencies to create this forward thinking document that seeks to meet the state’s greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

The strategies and action items included in CAPTI align with several STA transportation programs and priority projects. This is particularly true as it relates to STA’s efforts in electrifying our SolanoExpress Bus Fleet and corresponding infrastructure, investments in transit, Capitol Corridor Train Stations and WETA Ferry Terminals, expansion of active transportation projects and transportation demand management programs. It also supports the STA, Caltrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s effort in implementing the I-80 Express Lanes project that will directly support express bus lifeline transit service from Sacramento to the Bay Area. We are supportive of CAPTI’s climate change strategies and recommend support for carbon neutral maintenance strategies where possible.

CAPTI also supports the nexus between transportation and land use decisions. The STA and the cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo, and the County of Solano formed a partnership in 2019 called the Solano Housing Investment Partnership (SolHIP). The SolHIP is working to overcome challenges for developing much needed affordable housing in Priority Development Areas and adjacent to regionally significant transit facilities. As part of this effort, over 380 affordable housing units are in the process of being developed near the Vacaville Transportation Center and the Hannigan Train Station in Fairfield. No affordable housing was previously planned for these areas. Concurrently, the STA has recently partnered with the Association of Bay Area Governments to form a County Collaborative on housing to update the Cities and County of Solano’s Housing Elements through SolHIP. Collectively, these efforts will culminate in much needed reductions in Vehicle Miles Travelled, consistent with CAPTI’s goals.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment and support CAPTI. We look forward to our continued partnership in delivering important transportation projects in Solano County. Please contact Daryl Halls, STA Executive Director at (707) 424-6075 or dkhalls@sta.ca.gov or STA Director of Planning, Robert Guerrero at (707) 399-3211 or rguerrero@sta.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding this support letter.

Sincerely,

Ron Rowlett, STA Board Chair
Mayor, City of Vacaville

Cc: STA Board of Directors
    Chad Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary, CalSTA
    Adetokunbo ‘Toks’ Omishakin, Director, Caltrans
    Josh Shaw, President, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange