



December 12, 2019

To: Sacramento Transportation Authority Governing Board

From: SMART/SacMoves Coalition

Re: STA Agenda Item 6 - Comments on Discussion Draft Measure A Transportation Expenditure Plan

Chair Peters and Members of the STA Governing Board,

Sacramento Metro Advocates for Rail and Transit (SMART) and SacMoves are leading a broad-based coalition of business, labor and community groups who share a common vision. We believe that Sacramento should have an innovative, seamless and diversified transportation network offering a wide range of accessible, affordable and efficient mobility choices coupled with supportive land uses. We further believe that we can strengthen and diversify Sacramento's economy, improve our air quality, and reduce carbon emissions and vehicle miles traveled by minimizing single occupancy vehicle trips, expanding and improving public transit and shared mobility services and providing safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians. All community members, particularly from marginalized communities, should have access to sustainable and affordable mobility options that facilitate positive community outcomes for public health and safety, livability and the economy. In short, County residents should have the option of living and working within walking distance or a transit stop from everything they need.

We acknowledge the need for an additional half-cent sales tax to match state and federal revenues to achieve this vision. We appreciate the hard work and effort that has gone into the staff and consultant team's outreach and preparation of the Discussion Draft Transportation Expenditure Plan (Draft TEP). We also thank the Board for adjusting the Measure A schedule to allow for greater public input.

It is in that spirit that we offer a Policy Framework to move the Measure A process forward. At this critical juncture in Sacramento's growth, we can ill afford to settle for second best. We need the best possible plan for Sacramento's future, one that puts us in position to compete for jobs and for state and federal dollars. One of our key recommendations is that the overall TEP and major projects should result in no net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

We therefore urge the Governing Board to direct staff to conduct a VMT and GHG analysis of both the Draft TEP and an alternative plan shaped by our Policy Framework before adopting a final plan. This conformity analysis should also examine how the alternative plans align with SACOG's recently adopted MTP/SCS and state requirements under SB 743. We understand that the Sacramento Air Quality Management District is available to lead a multi-agency team to perform this important work in the timeframe set forth in the STA staff/consultant report.