

SAC MOVES

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Partner Organizations 2021-2022:



AARP

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SARA



Sacramento Regional Rail Working Group

Sacramento Splash

Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter

Sierra Club, Sacramento Group

SKK Enterprises



February 4, 2022

To: Mayor Steinberg and City Councilmembers

The SacMoves coalition thanks the Mayor and City Council for requesting and supporting the **February 8 Council workshop on Climate and Transportation** and further thanks City staff for their thoughtful and thorough preparation for the workshop. SacMoves would like to take this opportunity to provide our perspective on and vision for urgent action on transportation planning and funding to address climate change.

As the City Council has acknowledged, climate change constitutes an emergency. The City of Sacramento cannot afford to wait and see how other cities and the world's nations will respond to the need for urgent action.

In Sacramento, transportation is the source of over 50% of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, our efforts to curb its impact on our environment remain woefully inadequate. This is the time for City Council to take unprecedented, comprehensive, and bold action to transform transportation in the City and the region. Such a transformation is nonnegotiable if we are to begin to respond to the imminent threat of climate change; it is also essential in fostering equity, addressing traffic safety, increasing the livability of our neighborhoods, and improving air quality. Sacramento can and must lead.

Specifically, we request the Mayor and City Council to take the following immediate actions:

- Direct the City Manager to include in the upcoming FY 2022-23 budget proposal funding for the seven “big idea” active transportation and transit projects proposed by City staff – to the extent multiple year capital outlays are required, these outlays should also be reflected in the proposed allocations in the 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- Direct the City Manager to allocate sufficient staff and resources in the current fiscal year and/or FY2022-23 to ensure development and implementation of a comprehensive active transportation and public transit framework for the City.
- Direct the City Manager to identify and strategically set aside funds necessary for the City’s local match to maximize the City’s leverage and competitiveness for federal and state transportation grants and SACOG and STA competitive grant programs to support active transportation and public transit projects that are identified with the City’s 2022-2027 CIP, the City’s Transportation Priorities Program, and other City transportation plans.
- Work with City staff, local businesses, developers, labor, and other community leaders to develop a comprehensive planning, outreach, advocacy, financing and implementation strategy to maximize the City’s leverage and competitiveness for transportation, land use, and climate change funding.

For the past two years, SacMoves has been leading a broad-based coalition of business, labor and community groups united behind a common vision 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, better air quality, safer neighborhoods, and a stronger and more equitable economy. To that end, we have consistently advocated for the inclusion of projects and policies in transportation, land use, and climate action plans for the City, the Sacramento Transportation Authority, SACOG, and the greater Sacramento region that are consistent with the groundbreaking work of the Mayors' Climate Change Commission.

In December 2019, the City of Sacramento adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration, committing to “taking significant action to sustain and accelerate municipal and community carbon elimination in the short term, with maximum feasible efforts to implement emergency-speed carbon reduction actions towards eliminating emissions by 2030 as much as possible.”

The City has indeed taken impressive steps to facilitate electrification of vehicles by installing charging infrastructure and removing barriers to electric vehicle use. However, the City has been less effective to date in its strategies and investment to ensure a reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through land use and transportation planning and investments in active transportation and transit. Unfortunately, the City is nowhere close to meeting its goal for carbon neutrality. The City must change course from well-intentioned, but often ineffective, targets and goals for addressing climate change to concrete planning and funding that support a fundamental shift in transportation policy.

The Mayors' Climate Commission recommended just such a fundamental change in course, finding that the City will need to facilitate drastic mode shifts to achieve widespread adoption of clean mobility options. The Commission's recommended modal hierarchy prioritized active transportation as the healthiest and most efficient option, public transit and pooled shared mobility for longer trips, and finally zero-emission vehicles for trips where transit or active transportation is not a viable option. Zero-emission vehicles alone cannot be the solution. The City must shift its focus from moving cars to moving people if we are going to have a chance of reaching our goals for carbon neutrality. We must plan for and invest in a variety of measures that support active transportation and transit, including infill developments, complete streets, comprehensive multimodal corridors, accessible and affordable mobility, among others. SacMoves supports the measures – the “seven big ideas” -- proposed by staff as important first steps.

At the same time, we implore City Council to continue to make progress toward a comprehensive active transportation and transit framework for the City. This requires the City to invest staff time and resources into the development and implementation of a comprehensive program of active transportation and transit projects. City Council must adjust its budgetary priorities to reflect the urgency of the unprecedented crisis we confront and ensure that City funding supports a bold and comprehensive approach to reducing VMT and GHG emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We are eager to work with you and your staff on an active transportation and transit framework and projects that reflects the vision we all have for a sustainable city.

Yours truly,

SacMoves Coalition

Anne Stausboll, former Chair, Mayors' Commission on Climate Change

Steve Cohn, President Breathe California Sacramento Region

Roger Dickinson

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Kiara Reed, Civic Thread

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Ralph Propper, Past President/Climate Change Committee Chair, Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)

Susan Herre, President, ECOS

Barbara Leary, Chair, Sierra Club, Sacramento Group

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Barbara Stanton, RiderShip for the Masses

Glenda Marsh, SMART Steering Committee

Rosanna Herber, SMART Steering Committee

Betsy Weiland, Save the American River Association

Emel Wadhvani, SMART Steering Committee and Breathe Board

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