

January SacMoves Coalition Meeting

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

Attendance: Deb Banks, Mia Machado, Dan Allison, Barbara Leary, Susan Herre, Jeffery Taradaglia, Benjamin Etgen, Anthony Palmere, Inga Olson, Kathy Saechou, Ralph Propper, Ali Doerr Westbrook, David Moore, Barbara Stanton, Chris Flores, Dan Allison, Angela E. Herring, Sue Teranishi

Welcome & Ground Rules

- “Pay the rent” → This means you need to actively participate and contribute to the discussion.
- Civility/Respect → This means respecting all voices in the room.

Setting the Table

Deb Banks: My job is setting the table. The SacMoves charter is the baseline of our work and should be used as a lens to think through as we do our work:

“To build a broad-based community-driven coalition in the Sacramento region to advocate for funding and development of an equitable, efficient, sustainable transportation system for the 21st Century”

Since the downfall of the last Measure A, the fact that SacMoves wasn’t able to come to a consensus as a group meant that there was some fragmentation that resulted. The purpose of this meeting is to help bring us back together, and to help us answer some questions: What positions will SacMoves take moving forward; What role we want to take as decisions are moving forward (as leaders, supporters, or followers); What do we as SacMoves think is our role in this larger puzzle. When we’re in the room with all these other groups working on a new measure A, we want to be able to coalesce and come together. Are we in agreement with this?

Barbara Leary: You mentioned that there are all these groups that have been meeting. Some of us have been in those meetings. It seems like it may be a good idea in the long run for there to be a forum – with Chairs from each group that share what they’re planning. This may be a helpful way to check the temperature of other groups.

Dan Allison: I want to clarify our approach before we move on with things. First, I was one of the first people here when we started this coalition. It was never just about the ballot measures—the goal was to be a transportation voice in Sacramento. There are a number of people in this coalition who were key members of the “Measure A Not Okay” Campaign, who put a lot of time and effort to defeat that Measure. It was the most important voice involved in the defeat of Measure A, and I want to acknowledge that.

So now the question is deciding if we want to play a key role in the discussions moving forward. Do we want to be a “reactor” to the decisions that come forward, **or** do we want to be proactive,

developing our own ideas – with partners – that we want to put forward for the future of Sacramento.

The more we look at the ballot measure, the more we realize that smaller fixes aren't the solution, it's the actual measure that was the problem, we want to do better than that.

Ralph Propper: In the wake of Measure A, almost 8 years ago—the measure lost by about 1%. People argued that we just needed to do a better sales job. I said no, you need to work in the community. And we'll support it based on our decisions that we come with collaboratively.

I also want to provide some background on ECOS. We couldn't come out against Measure A earlier since it was prevented by a settlement over the construction of the Southeast Connector. We got a lot of heat too by supporting a MOU. I want to let you know that just because we were late in the game and we supported an MOU, it doesn't mean that we're not eager to work together with everyone to come up with a future measure.

Thinking Broader

David Moore: We know that land, transportation, and housing do not live in a different plane. We have talked about including housing elements into Measure A, since this was a large discussion— how housing affects transportation.

Now it's time to discuss how housing fits into the next transportation measure or effort. We know that the two issues are connected, we know that we can't look at these through individual measures. If SacMoves wants to work on this, what does it look like?

Susan Herre: Many have talked about this measure being more than just transportation. Naturally I think about integrating housing in a good way. Infrastructure investments or inclusions in the correct places, like around transportation, would be appropriate. However, the inclusion of housing costs in the measure might be more difficult to include.

Inga Olsen: I'm blue skying it here based on the conversation. I was wondering about funding. Of course, there will be federal funding, but I know a lot would go through banks, etc. I wonder for this kind of measure if funding could go to a public bank, so we know this money doesn't go to things like corporations but stays in our community.

Sue Teranishi: I appreciate the discussion on infrastructure. To generally include infrastructure may not be enough, but to specify the type we would want to include makes a lot of sense. We should encourage this specificity in our general goal.

Barba Stanton: I think about transit development and infill projects a lot. We must be really attentive to where these are going—if they fit the place, the impacts on the communities or areas around it, etc. Let's think about it before we just jump in. We need to think about how it will affect neighborhoods.

David Moore: Sounds like there is a general support in the room around housing and infrastructure. There may be an opportunity later to discuss this as a group and see where this fits in, in the right capacity.

Thinking About Our Reach

Kathy Saechou: I know we are Sacramento County focused, but maybe we want to think regionally. I know SACOG is working on their Blueprint right now. There are a lot of regional efforts going on around us, we can't think about one without including the other. This may be an opportunity for us to plug in and work together, finding the missing gaps instead of starting over.

Susan Herre: I've heard that if you have a city only measure, you will not generate enough money to fund the projects we need over the coming decades. That's either true or false—if it's true, I think the city (focus) is out and we need to think bigger than that.

Dan Allison: The City of Sacramento is more than a third of the county, so it will produce 1/3 of funding. Since the beginning, SacMoves has focused on the SACOG region, even if this isn't true for these efforts, we should still look to this region.

Ralph Propper: We can also still consider Bill 152 brought forward by Kevin McCarty. It could still be modified quite a bit, and it would basically call for a carve out of the counties that focuses on regional transportation.

David Moore: When I think about what it really means to create change on a city or regional level, I don't think that SacMoves really has the capacity or funding to do the whole SACOG region. The voices in the room are mostly centered around Sacramento County. This is where we will have the most effective changes. We may dilute our power the further we go out.

Ali Westbrook Doerr: I think that's a great point, SacMoves should just make sure to be involved in the regional plans that SACOG are developing. If our coalition can be actively involved in those conversations, it may be a better space for that. I want to flag for folks that there have been a lot of conversations about statewide funding for transportation and infill projects. We can focus on letting our representatives know where we want them to be going after this funding.

Anthony Palmere: I agree about the County Region, but also making sure we will stay in sync with the wider region. We need to make sure the advocacy is in sync outside of the county, since some efforts may bleed into the other regions.

Deb Banks: With a SABA hat on, I'm in complete agreement with that. I'd be hard pressed to advocate for other areas of the SACOG region, but I can easily see us thinking about how whatever we're advocating for will have impacts on places like West Sac, Davis, etc that are very close by.

So where are we with the location? Are we thinking city or county? Or are we just in agreement about being against the SACOG region?

David Moore: An important part of our charter is equity and accessibility. We should use our privilege that we have in this room to help share these measures in SB 535 communities (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>).

Dan Allison: That's a great point, Measure A never tried to reach into SB 535 communities. It was all about commuters. That was a complete failure in that regard.

*** Group Agreement – Sacramento County region focus ***

Our Strengths

Deb Banks: To some extent, I think we have some street credit. As a group of organizations that come together, write letters, etc., we have had some recognition and respect from leaders as a group. What are some other strengths of SacMoves?

Group Strengths:

- **Communication** – we share out about important events, decisions, etc. happening around us.
- **Uniting Force** – we have brought together transportation advocates to see what our common interests are. This didn't exist before.
- **Credibility** – because of all of our independent credibility as members of various organizations that work on a variety of issues, such as bikes, transit, and housing.
- **History** – there's a lot of history here—this group really brings that to the people. There's a lot of expertise and good thinking that goes on here.
- **Policy Force** – this group is able to put forth policies. We hear a lot of discussion about what to do about Measure A but haven't seen anyone put anything forward. SacMoves does this and can. We saw this back in 2020.

Individual Strengths:

- **STAR** – We have a blog that addresses several transit issues. We talk about policy too
- **Ridership for the Masses** – We have been around for more than 20 years. we have established our credibility in the region and with SacRT. We are a group that works with transit issues a lot, so we work on various issues, and we have a good distribution list that gets out to a lot of people.
- **Sac True** – We are good organizers. We talk about what has changed and what is happening – we try to identify problems that are happening with riders. We identify occurring problems and talk about ways to address them.
- **SABA** – we get crumbs in the transportation space. SABA and Deb will always show up as fierce advocates for bike-friendly initiatives.
- **Civic Thread**— Everything we do is with an equity lens—I think we are a very trusted voice for community members that are not always included in these discussions.
- **Valley Vision** – Lots of personal expertise on urban planning and in the community of Oak Park.
- **TRAK** – We have been around got a long time. We have planes who are really active at the local level. As a whole we are a lot more critical about the measures and efforts out there. It is exceedingly valuable to put people and community members first in these efforts.
- **Yolo Mobility** – We are quite new and small. But we bring a lot of passion from our members. I (Anthony) personally very skilled with quantitative data and likes to crunch numbers. If we have any reports that we want to go through, I'm your man.
- **ECOS** – We are good communicators and try to be a forum for generating new ideas and bringing forth solutions. We have a climate focus now too.
- **Angela**—I'm an advocate, a resident, and a parent. I represent the voiceless, the marginalized, the disabled. I bring the voices that SacMoves is lacking. I bring a lens of equity, passion, and empathy.
- **BREATHE** – we have worked very long with air quality work. BREATHE was one of the original co-founders of SacMoves. Having people in the building working on the big picture helped coalesce a lot of different groups in the building.

Planning Working Groups

David Moore: We think there's a lot of value in having subgroups to focus on various issues.

Funding

Dan Allison: Right after the failure of Measure A, a lot of people were just saying we just needed a better measure A – but there is a growing understanding in Sac that we need something much better, better than Measure A. There's also awareness that we are running out of a sales tax funding mechanism. It might be time to look at other funding mechanisms.

Policy

David Moore: I'm hoping we can look at these developments going in and reviewing them.

- (email David Moore for vision)

Deb Banks: Do we see SacMoves playing a role in the future efforts of transportation and housing. Can you personally commit to SacMoves moving forward?

Yes → Deb Banks, Barbara Stanton, David Moore, Sue Teranishi, Inga Olsen, Angela E Hearring, Dan Allison

Next meeting: We will be meeting next on March 17th at 10am.