

SacMoves Coalition meeting

October 18, 2024

These notes are from an application Read.ai, run on the Zoom meeting by Breathe Sacramento, and have not been edited.

Key Questions:

- * How might the changes proposed by STA affect local funding measures?
- * What specific actions are being considered to address the traffic violence state of emergency declared by the city?
- * How can Quick Build projects be effectively implemented to improve roadway safety?
- * What are the next steps for the SmartRide program to ensure it meets the needs of the community?

Summary:

The meeting focused on various transportation funding initiatives and legislative proposals, particularly Proposition 5, introduced by Dan Allison. This proposition aims to lower the property tax bonding requirement from two-thirds to 55% for specific projects, including affordable housing and public infrastructure. While there is minimal opposition, concerns were raised about the local implications and how this change might affect existing funding measures. Steve Cohn highlighted that many jurisdictions can already issue bonds without a vote, and Ralph Propper supported the idea of utilizing property taxes for funding, suggesting it could provide new avenues for financial support.

Updates from the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) board meeting were shared, including a new initiative to transition to hydrogen buses and the establishment of a committee to explore funding measures. The discussion also touched on the mayor's rescheduled event on December 9th, which will focus on community-led transportation measures. David Moore emphasized the ongoing funding challenges in local transportation and the need for better financial support for policies and planning projects. The Active Transportation Commission's approval of their 2024 annual report aimed at enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety was also noted, alongside a proposal for a vacancy tax as a potential funding source.

The meeting concluded with discussions on Quick Build projects and their potential to improve roadway safety. David Moore and other attendees expressed the need for a balance between immediate solutions and long-term infrastructure funding. Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of current proposals, particularly regarding roadway redesign and the focus on education and enforcement.

The meeting fostered a constructive dialogue about future actions, including the importance of equity in funding frameworks and the need for better allocation of resources to enhance safety measures for vulnerable road users. Overall, the participants recognized the urgency of addressing transportation challenges while advocating for innovative funding solutions.

Chapters & Topics:

Discussion on Proposition 5 and Local Funding Implications

Dan Allison discussed Proposition 5, which proposes to change the property tax bonding requirement from two-thirds to 55%, potentially impacting local funding for affordable housing and infrastructure projects. He highlighted that the proposition could allow local entities to bond against property tax income, although its practical implications are still uncertain. Steve Cohn raised questions about how this might affect existing local funding measures, particularly regarding the authority of agencies like STA.

- * Proposition 5 and its implications for property tax-based bonding.

Updates on Transportation Funding and Projects

Ralph Propper inquired about transportation funding models, referencing past considerations in the Bay Area. Dan Allison shared insights from the STA board meeting, highlighting a SACRT-led project focused on hydrogen buses and funding for mobility hubs. The I-Street Bridge project was also discussed, with the SACRT initiative winning a close vote for funding.

- * Updates from the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) regarding local funding measures and legislative changes.

Updates on Housing, Transportation, and Funding Initiatives

Steve Cohn announced a shift in the mayor's event to December 9th, focusing on community-led transportation measures that integrate housing and climate considerations. David Moore emphasized the critical funding challenges facing local transportation projects and the importance of maintaining awareness of these issues. He also mentioned the city's updates on street design standards and parking reforms, inviting input from participants on how to engage with these initiatives.

STA Legislative Updates and Local Transportation Issues

Kevin Bewsey discussed STA's recent legislative updates, focusing on potential changes to sales tax application and funding for VMT mitigation projects. He indicated that the board would present further details in November and mentioned the formation of a subcommittee to assess the viability of pursuing a new measure. Steve Cohn inquired about the implications of Prop 5 on STA's authority, highlighting the need for further analysis if the proposition passes.

Sacramento City State of Emergency Discussion

David Moore from Civic Thread reported on the Sacramento City Council's declaration of a state of emergency in response to traffic fatalities, emphasizing that the proposed measures were insufficient for ensuring safety. Advocates criticized the focus on education and enforcement rather than necessary changes to roadway design. A meeting with Vice Mayor Maple's staff revealed a willingness to revise the language of the declaration based on community feedback.

Quick Build Initiatives and Funding Discussions

Dan Allison discussed the potential funding for Quickville projects, advocating for community engagement and support for safer roadways. David Moore noted that Quick Build is becoming a focal point in discussions at various governmental levels, presenting an opportunity to push for city investment. Sue Teranishi expressed her support for Quick Build as a responsive solution to ongoing

safety issues, while Cheryl Croshere raised concerns about the planning process involved in implementing these projects.

Discussion on Quick Build Projects and Community Engagement

Ali Doerr Westbrook noted the absence of Council Member Maple as a setback in their discussions, advocating for her attendance in future meetings to ensure recommendations are properly conveyed. She expressed frustration over the lack of incorporation of their Active Transportation Commission report into current projects and stressed the importance of engineering in quick builds. Additionally, she pointed out missed opportunities for funding applications through the Active Transportation Program.

SACOG Board Meeting Highlights

In the SACOG board meeting, David Moore highlighted the approval of a funding framework that emphasizes equity and supports Quick Build initiatives. He noted the board's decision to fund the Grant Line Road widening, which received a low greenhouse gas reduction score, raising concerns about its environmental impact. The meeting also featured a presentation on the "Dangerous by Design" report, which sparked interest in implementing Quick Build solutions.

- * The importance of Quick Build projects in improving roadway safety and infrastructure.

Update on SmartRide Program and SB 960 Success

Ralph Propper asked for a delay in implementing SB 375 targets. Dan Allison from STAR reported on the SmartRide program's transition from an Uber-based model to a more focused service for those in need, following significant public feedback. This change was well-received, marking a quick and positive response from SACRT.

- * Recent developments in the SmartRide program and its focus on targeted service for specific populations.

Action Items:

- * David Moore will repost the meeting agenda in the chat for attendees.
- * Dan Allison/STAR will provide a link to more information about Proposition 5 in the chat.
- * Ali Doerr Westbrook will keep the group updated on the Active Transportation Commission's annual report and its progress through the PMP committee.
- * Kevin Bewsey, STA will return to the board with draft legislation regarding funding flexibility and report back in November.
- * David Moore; Civic Thread will monitor discussions around the potential vacancy tax and keep the group informed.
- * David Moore; Civic Thread will schedule a follow-up meeting with Vice Mayor Maple to discuss the state of emergency declaration.
- * Dan Allison/STAR will continue to advocate for funding dedicated to Quick Build projects and roadway redesign.
- * Jeanie Ward-Waller will share details about the success of SB 960 and its implications for Complete Streets with the group.