

Sacmoves Coalition Meeting

2025-08-15

The Sacmoves meeting discussed the potential closure of a causeway for two to three months over two years for conduit installation, affecting 90 daily commuters. Kevin Bewsey from STA highlighted three efforts: Assembly Bill 1223, listening sessions, and a countywide survey. Steve Cohn from SMART presented a framework for a 2026 measure, emphasizing a 50/50 split between road and transit expenditures. Anthony Adams from SacRT detailed SacRT's \$2 billion capital budget, noting a \$60 million annual funding gap by 2030. The group discussed the need for better transit funding, including potential measures and alternative revenue sources like property taxes.

Action Items

- [] Discuss and consider changing the Sacmoves meeting frequency to monthly, with the option to cancel if no agenda items arise.
- [] SacRT to develop and finalize Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) with transit service improvement scenarios for quarter-cent and half-cent measures to guide potential citizen initiative planning.
- [] Send details about the proposed \$1.50 ticket surcharge to Channel 24 event organizers to support expanded transit service and late-night light rail hours.
- [] Promote and share information about the September 21 Climate Justice Festival with coalition members and encourage participation as co-sponsors or tablers.
- [] Post event link and promotions on STAR blog and LinkedIn after receiving direct link from Chris Brown.

- [] Increase use of groups.io for coalition communications and provide assistance to members struggling to join or manage subscription preferences.
- [] Encourage organizations to designate liaisons to maintain official communication channels within the coalition.
- [] Circulate information about Environmentalist of the Year nominations and deadlines to coalition members.
- [] Continue biweekly coordination meetings between STA and SacRT representatives to align survey questions and measure planning.
- [] Share with coalition survey results and funding scenarios as they become available to ensure informed community advocacy and planning. [throughout the meeting]
- [] Conduct and analyze public listening sessions and countywide survey on transportation funding priorities; consultant to provide findings and briefings to STA subcommittee.
- [] Explore potential citizen-led transit-only measure if STA declines to lead 2026 countywide sales tax measure, including signature gathering, fundraising, and ballot language preparation, with decision timeline in next few months.
- [] Follow-up meeting with Channel 24 scheduled to discuss transit partnership and surcharge proposal.
- [] Share Steve Cohn's PowerPoint presentation slides with the group for further review.

Outline

Causeway Closure and Initial Meeting Setup

- SABA discusses the frustration over PGE's plan to close the causeway for two to three months over the next two years to install a conduit.
- Steve Cohn and SABA discuss the impact of the closure on commuters and the possibility of staging trucks to avoid the closure.

- Dan Allison announces the start of the meeting and mentions the three potential speakers: Kevin Bewsey, Steve Cohn, and Anthony Adams.
- Steve Cohn asks Dan about screen sharing for his PowerPoint presentation, and Dan confirms he will be given permission.

Social Ride and Bat Observation

- SABA shares details about a recent social ride in West Sacramento, where 90 people participated.
- The ride included stops at various points, including the causeway, where a naturalist gave a talk about the 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats living in the expansion joints.
- Steve Cohn makes a joke about the bats having visas, and SABA describes the bats' behavior and the presence of hawks and falcons waiting for them.
- SABA recommends watching the bats from the levee, noting their migration and hunting patterns.

Kevin Bewsey's Presentation on Funding and Legislation

- Kevin Bewsey discusses three parallel efforts related to a potential measure in 2026, including Assembly Bill 1223, listening sessions, and a countywide survey.
- Kevin explains the purpose of AB 1223, which would extend STA's authority to implement sub-county transportation sales tax measures.
- The bill would allow the use of toll revenue for toll projects and expand the eligible use of tax revenues for infill development.
- Kevin outlines the listening sessions planned for September, October, and November, and the process for gathering feedback and providing briefings to the STA subcommittee.

Steve Cohn's Presentation on SMART's Framework and Past Initiatives

- Steve Cohn presents SMART's new fact sheet and introduces the new board members, including Chech Sablan and Darrell Steinberg.

- Steve reviews SMART's past efforts, including failed initiatives in 2016, 2020, and 2022, and the coalition's framework developed in 2019.
- The framework includes policies and allocation guidelines for transportation expenditure plans, with a vision of a 50/50 split between road expenditures and transit.
- Steve discusses the potential for a city measure in 2023, focusing on transit, complete streets, active transportation, and affordable housing infrastructure.

Anthony Adams' Presentation on SacRT's Capital Projects and Funding Challenges

- Anthony Adams provides an overview of SacRT's base system, including light rail, commuter buses, local buses, paratransit, and flex zones.
- Anthony highlights SacRT's capital projects, with over \$2 billion in the capital budget, and the need to prioritize spending.
- He compares SacRT's funding to other transit systems, noting that SacRT receives less funding but is more efficient.
- Anthony discusses the fiscal cliff facing SacRT, with operating costs increasing while dedicated operating revenue remains stagnant.

Transit ID Exchanges and Public Feedback

- Anthony Adams explains the transit ID exchanges, where participants are given \$100 to allocate to various transit improvements.
- The results show a strong preference for maintaining existing service, enhancing security, and providing free student fares and late-night service.
- Anthony highlights the importance of frequent service, enhanced security, and senior and disabled micro transit.
- He discusses the potential for a quarter-cent measure to deliver significant improvements and a half-cent measure to expand coverage and enhance facilities.

Discussion on Potential Measures and Timing

- SABA asks about the convergence of interests between SMART, SacRT, and STA, and the timing for a potential measure.
- Kevin Bewsey and Anthony Adams discuss the importance of polling and the need for a clear pathway forward, considering the timing and resources required.
- Steve Cohn emphasizes the need for polling to gauge public support and the challenges of a citizens' measure without pay-for-play funding.
- The discussion includes the potential for a transit-only measure and the importance of aligning efforts with the needs of the community and agencies.

Organization Liaisons and Individual Sharing

- Dan Allison invites organization liaisons to share information about their organizations and concerns related to transportation funding and equity.
- Chris Brown announces the Climate Justice Festival on September 21, inviting co-sponsors and participants.
- John Deeter mentions the upcoming Environmental Commission meeting on November 14 and the open nomination period until September 1.
- Anthony Adams discusses SacRT's Safe Routes to Transit plan and the development of mobility hubs to support first/last mile connections.

Challenges with Channel 24 and Potential Solutions

- SABA raises concerns about Channel 24's impact on transit use and the need for better service to support events.
- Anthony Adams explains SacRT's proposal to Channel 24, including a \$1.50 surcharge per ticket to provide free transit for the day and extended light rail hours.
- Chris Flores adds that the Sac Republic is considering a similar model for their events.
- Kay Crumb offers to support the proposal and asks for a breakdown of the services provided with the surcharge.

Funding Mechanisms and Future Meetings

- Anthony Adams suggests exploring alternative funding mechanisms, such as property taxes or business taxes, beyond sales tax.
- Steve Cohn notes the challenges of implementing these mechanisms in California due to state initiatives.
- Dan Allison asks if the group should meet more frequently, and Steve Cohn suggests having potential meetings on the calendar to assess the need.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder of the next scheduled meeting in October, and the importance of staying informed and engaged.