

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
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Martinez, California 94553

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Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

April 29, 2016

Dave Hudson, Chair
Contra Costa Transportation Authority
2999 Oak Road, Suite 100
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Subject: Transportation Expenditure Plan

Dear Chair Hudson:

On April 26, 2016, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the following comments on **1)** the latest version¹ of the Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) and **2)** the April 20, 2016 memo from Gray, Bowen, Scott re: *Review of the Draft TEP/Identified Issues and Recommendations*. This comment letter does not constitute an endorsement by the Board of the concept of a 2016 transportation sales tax. The Board will consider that broader issue at a future meeting.

TEP: Detailed Descriptions of Funding Categories: Community Development

Transportation Program: The Board believes there is an adequate amount of attention paid to the “housing” side of the jobs/housing balance. The comments below are meant to provide some additional focus on the “jobs” side of the ratio by encouraging higher quality employment.

...Funds will be allocated on a competitive basis to transportation projects or programs that promote economic development, job creation (targeting businesses that create significant direct employment and indirect jobs) and/or housing within established (or planned) transit supportive community centers.

¹ April 8, 2016 CCTA Memo to RTPCs re: *Draft Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) - Release for Review and Comment*

Additional priority will be given to projects where the sponsor can demonstrate that the project supports and facilitates development of housing for all income levels or supports creating jobs in areas with a deficit of proximate, middle-wage employment opportunities. Working with the RTPCs, the Authority will prepare guidelines and establish overall criteria for the program including the recognition of localized jobs/housing imbalances and the consequential impacts, including: imbalanced and excessive commute times; quality of life, higher vehicle miles traveled/greenhouse gas production and; under-utilized transportation infrastructure.

TEP: Detailed Descriptions of Funding Categories: Local Streets Maintenance & Improvements: The description of eligible maintenance activities should be explicit in what activities are funded. We want to ensure that road-related, non-pavement infrastructure is also eligible for these funds. This includes but is not limited to water conveyance features, environmental mitigation, safety features, vegetation & landscaping, ADA obligations, etc. While transportation facility maintenance typically focuses on pavement costs, the road-related non-pavement infrastructure costs are often higher.

Gray, Bowen, Scott Memo: Urban Limit Line: 11. *Require jurisdictions that might be considering a non-voter approved amendment to their ULL that would impact defined Agricultural lands outside of the ULL to adopt an Agricultural Protection Ordinance and/or mitigate the loss of designated Agricultural lands by permanently protecting farmland.*

The Board does not support this recommendation. We prefer that the TEP retain a focus on transportation issues and that local jurisdictions maintain more autonomy on agricultural preservation. Local agencies are free to take this issue up if circumstances warrant.

Gray, Bowen, Scott Memo: The Growth Management Program: 12. *With respect to the Growth Management Program, the GBS team recommends that the Authority add additional disclosure items (not requirements) to its Growth Management Checklist to include whether or not a jurisdiction has adopted any or all of the following – a Hillside Development Ordinance...*

Similar to the comment above, the Board believes the TEP should have a tighter focus on transportation and avoid addressing other, ancillary issues.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the tireless efforts of the Authority Board, staff and consultants in moving this important effort ahead and for the consideration of these comments. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Candace Andersen, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, District II

C:
Members, Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Sharon Anderson, County Counsel
Julie Bueren, Director – Public Works Department
John Kopchik, Director - Conservation and Development