

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

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Contra Costa County



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

August 1, 2017

Tom Butt, Chair
Contra Costa Transportation Authority
2999 Oak Road, Suite 100
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Subject: 2017 Countywide Transportation Plan Update

Dear Chair Butt:

On August 1, 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized me to transmit this comment letter on the May 24, 2017 *Draft Final Contra Costa Countywide Transportation Plan* (CTP). The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (Authority) for the substantial time and effort put into the CTP.

The County has comments on the County's Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative, accessible transit issues, and the proposal to expand the Regional Transportation Mitigation Program.

Northern Waterfront/Freight Movement

We appreciate the support for the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative found the CTP. This multijurisdictional effort would be more effective with additional tangible actions. We request that the following concepts be included in the CTP:

- At the regional level, continued Authority advocacy for the expedited development and funding of a Priority Production Area program would be helpful in project implementation.
- At the local level, the addition of Authority support for a shortline rail study in the Northern Waterfront area would be welcome.

Accessible Transit

In the County's November 3, 2015 letter on the CTP we highlighted the fact that accessible transit costs in Contra Costa are increasing while areas with a more coordinated transit system are seeing decreasing costs. Addressing this longstanding issue would be consistent with the *"invest wisely"*, and *"new potential funding sources"* principles espoused in the CTP.

Given this, we are requesting that the Authority take action relative to the statement in the February 19, 2015 Draft CTP regarding accessible transit and mobility management, *"...this is an area where the Authority can exhibit leadership"* and request that the Authority initiate the *Accessible Transportation Service Strategic Plan* originally proposed in Measure X. This would be a concrete action that would fulfill the

Authority's commitment found in Goal 3.7, *"Serving All Contra Costa Residents. Support the expansion of a coordinated system of transit and paratransit service..."*. If the accessible transit system is to perform adequately, we will need to provide leadership and not solely rely on the private sector's ability (or interest) to *adapt to senior's mobility challenges*¹.

Expanded Regional Transportation Mitigation Program

The County has concerns with the proposal to, *"...expand the Regional Transportation Mitigation Program to ensure that fees collected cover the costs of ongoing maintenance..."* found in the *"Maintaining our System"* section of the CTP. We believe this proposal should receive more examination and discussion before being included in the CTP. We hope that the Authority will consider removing this language and initiating outreach to your member agencies and the public to more thoroughly vet the proposal.

CTP – Volume 2: 10 and 20 Year Project Priority Lists

The following projects were in the Draft 2014 CTP project list but were removed in the 2017 document: Northern Waterfront Goods Movement Infrastructure, and Vasco Road Safety Improvements, Phase 2. We are requesting the reinstatement of these critical projects in the subject document.

We support the Plan and appreciate the Authority's past responsiveness to comments from the County on the previous versions of the CTP.

Sincerely,



Federal D. Glover, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, District I

C:

Janet Abelson, Chair - WCCTAC
Amy R. Worth, Chair – SWAT
Sal Evola, Chair, TRANSPLAN
Ron Leone, Chair – TRANSPAC

¹ Page ES-3: *Volume I, Countywide Transportation Plan*, May 24, 2017