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Executive Director

June 17, 2015

Mr. Gabriel Corley
California Transportation Plan Project Manager
Caltrans Division of Planning MS-32
P O Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274

RE: Comments on the Draft California Transportation Plan 2040


Dear Mr. Corley,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft California Transportation Plan (CTP) 2040. It is clear that the Department has worked hard in developing this document, and there is a lot of valuable information here. However, there are some issues that are of particular concern:

- Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) is deeply troubled about the role that the CTP looks to establish for the state, which appears to attempt to supercede or at least restrict PCTPA's ability to select and prioritize projects that implement our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). While we understand the role that the CTP plays in state and federal policy, PCTPA has worked hard with our local community to develop our RTP in accordance with the state's policy direction adopted by the California Transportation Commission and it is critical that these local efforts be respected.

Specifically, PCTPA strongly agrees with the California Transportation Commission and other local and regional planning agencies in recognizing the critical role that road capacity expansion projects play in the overall realm of transportation modes to address California's economic vitality and population growth.

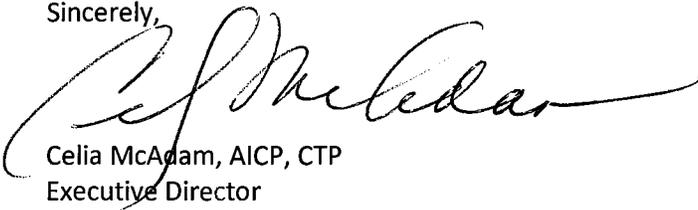
With SB 375, regions have worked hard to develop transportation and land use systems that address air quality and mobility needs within those parameters. PCTPA has carefully selected projects that not only meet our growth and air quality projections, but also support ongoing efforts to expand the economy and provide local jobs, including the development of two new universities. Transit and active transportation are an important part of that mix, but cannot adequately address the needs of goods movement, agro-tourism, and recreational access.

It is perplexing and completely counterproductive to restrict our ability to meet the challenges we face in balancing our population growth and economic needs with air quality and mobility by including such overly broad stroke statements in the CTP such as “avoid projects that add road capacity” and “any transportation projects on the State Highway System or on local streets that are capacity increasing should not be supported for funding”. These statements should be removed from the CTP.

- Unlike RTPs, the CTP does not address fiscal constraints. The level of funding needed for planning, let alone implementing, the lofty goals contained in the document go unrecognized. Planning efforts – and the hard choices they entail – cannot be successful without some recognition of the financial realities.
- There is a fundamental conflict in the priorities of the CTP. On the one hand, the document seeks to meet greenhouse gas emissions with the use of active transportation and transit projects, while still growing the economy and moving freight. It is simply not reasonable to expect bicycles and buses to move large shipments of agricultural products or semiconductors to market, let alone the myriad of other goods movement that we want to enhance. A balanced approach that recognizes there may be ongoing need for streets and roads, which is and should continue to be part of the RTPs.
- The goals and strategies for all modes have performance measures, but it is only vehicle miles of travel and greenhouse gases that are analyzed. The state needs to evaluate the whole picture to make informed decisions. To avoid an unbalanced and even prejudicial approach, the plan should also include analysis for mobility, access, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the CTP 2040. I join with others in the transportation community tasked with providing a balanced, functional, vibrant, environmentally responsible, and safe system in asking for your strong consideration of the issues above in the final document. If you should have any questions or need clarifications, please contact me at 530.823.4030 or cmcadam@pctpa.net.

Sincerely,



Celia McAdam, AICP, CTP
Executive Director

CM/ss