



April 17, 2015

Gabriel Corley
CTP Project Manager
Caltrans Division of Planning
MS-32
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

RE: Comments on the Draft California Transportation Plan 2040

Dear Mr. Corley:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) thanks Caltrans for opportunity to comment on the draft CTP 2040. The draft CTP 2040 presents and unified and comprehensive vision for California's transportation future. TAMC appreciates and supports the multimodal approach to achieving a sustainable transportation system with increased emphasis on active transportation, improved rail service, greater transit service, and improving the freight system. The CTP 2040 addresses the core issues of projected population growth and the resulting increase in transportation demand, as well as important social equity, public health and environmental challenges, especially vehicle greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation. Additionally, the plan highlights the central problem of the massive shortfall in funding needed both to maintain our existing infrastructure and to retool our transportation system to address the challenges we face.

TAMC offers the following comments and suggestions:

Consistency with adopted RTP-SCSs. We are pleased that all alternatives analyzed incorporate and reflect the adopted regional SCSs and recognize their central importance to the CTP 2040. However, the CTP 2040 should acknowledge that adequate funding resources are needed to implement the RTP-SCSs. The CTP2040 should include strategies that provide adequate funding resources.

Performance Measures. The Draft CTP2040 contains a number of performance metrics relating to the various goals and strategies, however, all of the analysis and results in the document are focused on GHG and VMT. In addition to GHG and VMT, the analysis and results should include a balance of all the performance metrics, including mobility, access, and safety.

Inclusion of Highway Safety. Chapter 8 does not include highway safety upgrades under recommendations. TAMC has recently completed several highway safety projects that have

dramatically improved safety for the traveling public in Monterey County. There are still several key highway safety projects to complete. TAMC recommends including highway safety projects in the recommendation section of chapter 8.

Invest Strategically. One of the strategies in Chapter 8 states that we should avoid funding projects that add road capacity. This is a concern for TAMC because our region has several key projects that will improve safety and enhance goods movements by filling the gaps in our local and regional road network. Such projects also support the CTP 2040 by aiding the economy and reducing GHG emissions caused by congestion. As currently written, the strategy limits region's flexibility in the types of investments that benefit both urban and rural areas as well as passenger and freight travel. TAMC suggests re-wording this strategy like so, "Strategically fund projects that add road capacity."

Clarify Conflicting Goals: The goals and recommended steps of the CTP 2040, as currently written, have the potential to conflict with each other and lead to confusion. For example, reducing GHG and increasing Active Transportation, but also expanding goods movement and promoting economic development. We suggest that the strategies be re-evaluated to eliminate such conflicts and provide a clearer path forward for achieving the goals of the CTP.

Implementation. The plan does a good job of identifying the state's transportation funding needs and the imperative to find new funding sources. However, a clearer plan for implementation is needed. As currently written, the CTP 2040 offers a detailed collection of goals, strategies, and performance measures, but it is not clear how the plan can be implemented. A more concrete discussion of implementation steps is needed to ensure the usefulness of this plan. The plan needs to be made real by, among other things, finding funding for SCS planning and implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft CTP 2040. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Leonard with my staff at 831-775-4402, or by email at grant@tamcmonterey.org.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Hale

Executive Director