



SANDAG Board of Directors
 401 B Street
 San Diego, CA

February 20, 2019

Re: Support for a New Vision for an Equitable Transportation System That Meets or Exceeds State Climate Targets and Aligns with Local Climate Action Plans

Dear Chair Vaus, SANDAG Board Members, and Staff:

The authors of this letter represent thousands of families, residents, and workers throughout the region advocating for an equitable, safe, and healthy transportation system for all San Diegans. We are writing in support of developing a new transportation vision for the region, which should guide the development of an outcome-driven RTP.

It has been clear for many years that SANDAG’s transportation plans fell far short of what it would take to meet our state and local climate targets. SANDAG’s acknowledgment of that fact, and the decision to go back to the drawing board to develop a vision up to the task of meeting the environmental, social, and economic challenges facing the region, are a crucial step in the right direction.

We support the commitment in the Proposed Action Plan to go beyond the SB 375 target of 19% per capita GHG reduction by 2035, and to support local jurisdictions’ Climate Action Plan targets. **We recommend that the SANDAG Board identify a per capita GHG reduction target of at least 25%¹ and alignment with local Climate Action Plan mode share targets as key outcomes of the new transportation vision.** The RTP should propose a regional transportation system that results in a significant reduction in vehicle miles traveled, by shifting commuter trips to non-automobile modes like transit, walking, and biking.

Further, **a new transportation vision for the region must include reduction of air pollution exposure in Environmental Justice communities**, per AB 805: “the regional comprehensive plan shall identify disadvantaged communities ... and include transportation strategies to reduce

¹ Many of the authors of this letter advocated for the Air Resources Board to set a 25% reduction target for SANDAG when the regions’ SB 375 targets were updated in 2017. Our August 2017 letter advocating for a more aggressive target for SANDAG is available here: https://www.climateactioncampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SD-Regional-Letter-SB-375-Targets_08-01-17.pdf

pollution exposure in these communities.” This provision is a requirement and must be carried out. The construction of new transportation infrastructure must also create good, union jobs for local communities, especially those that have been disproportionately impacted by the routes.

Finally, **a vision that prioritizes equity must include affordable fare structures that provide people of all ages and income levels with access to high-quality public transportation.**

No-cost transit passes for youth would offer access to opportunity for all youth and cultivate lifelong transit riders, helping to reduce GHG emissions by increasing transit ridership.

As SANDAG develops a transportation vision that acknowledges and acts on the legal and moral imperatives to avert catastrophic climate change, we look forward to working with you to better imagine and create the transportation system all residents of our region need and deserve.

Signed,

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