



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105
415.778.6700
www.mtc.ca.gov

Dave Cortese, Chair
Santa Clara County

July 1, 2016

Jake Mackenzie, Vice Chair
Sonoma County and Cities

Alicia C. Aguirre
Cities of San Mateo County

Tom Azunbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Jason Baker
Cities of Santa Clara County

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

David Campos
City and County of San Francisco

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Scott Haggerty
Alameda County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sam Liccardo
San Jose Mayor's Appointee

Mark Luce
Napa County and Cities

Julie Pierce
Association of Bay Area Governments

Bijan Sartipi
California State
Transportation Agency

Libby Schaaf
Oakland Mayor's Appointee

James P. Spering
Solano County and Cities

Adrienne J. Tissier
San Mateo County

Scott Wiener
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Anny Rein Worth
Cities of Contra Costa County

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Alix Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Premier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

The Honorable Brian Kelly
Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Ste. 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Sustainable Freight Action Plan Comments

Dear Secretary Kelly:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft California Sustainable Freight Action Plan (SFAP). The Northern California Trade Corridors Coalition (Coalition), formed under the Proposition 1B Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF) framework, includes the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) representing the Central Valley. The Coalition applauds the goals of the SFAP, as set forth in the Governor's Executive Order B-32-15.

The Coalition firmly believes that improving the efficiency of freight movement across California is a keystone to a thriving state economy. By laying out a strategic action plan for goods movement, the state is better prepared to direct future state and federal funds to projects with the greatest impact.

The SFAP includes a discussion on funding and prioritization of improvements, such as the TCIF Program (Phase II) on pages 13 and 14 of the draft document.

The Coalition supports using the existing TCIF framework to program future freight funding. The state's TCIF was established to allocate Proposition 1B bond funds, approved by voters in 2006 and appropriated through the annual budget, to fund infrastructure improvements along federally designated "Trade Corridors of National Significance" or along other corridors within this state that have a high volume of freight movement. The TCIF framework, and the Coalitions that are part of it, has been successful in identifying and programming significant local, regional, and statewide projects to improve freight movement. The TCIF Coalitions already coordinate various stakeholder interests, including those of the state, regions, local governments, seaports, and private freight and railroad companies.

The State is well-positioned to quickly accelerate delivery of projects utilizing future funds under the existing TCIF framework, a process with already developed guidelines that ensure funds flow to major trade corridors. These Guidelines could be updated to reflect Executive Order B-32-15 and the SFAP, with specific roles for the Coalitions, California Transportation Commission, and Caltrans.


The Coalition, representing millions of Northern California residents who live with the impacts of residing in the nation's global gateway for freight and goods movement, respectfully urge you to favorably consider using the State's successful TCIF framework to allocate future freight funding to responsibly finance development of California's critical freight and goods movement corridors as efficiently as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Note that each member agency of the Coalition may submit comments on the SFAP under separate cover. Should you wish to discuss the Coalition's position further, please contact Steve Heminger, Executive Director of MTC, at (415) 778-5210.


Sincerely,



Steve Heminger
Executive Director, MTC



Mike McKeever
Executive Director, SACOG



Andrew T. Chesley
Executive Director, SJCOG

cc: Susan Bransen, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission (CTC)
Malcolm Dougherty, Director, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)