

STAR Statement on Measure B Transportation Expenditure Plan

Beyond the basics of keeping our roadways in good repair, which benefits everyone no matter their mode of travel, transit funding, including operations, maintenance, and capital, offers the best return on transportation investment:

1. Reduces traffic congestion directly by shifting drivers to transit riders, at a much lower cost than roadway expansion.
2. Reduces the need for very expensive parking lots, on-street parking, and parking structures. Structured parking spaces can cost up to \$50,000 each, but only a small part of this is recovered by parking fees.
3. Offers transportation options for those who can't or don't wish to drive, including children, elderly, disabled, and low income. Car ownership is low in low-income neighborhoods and denser urban areas, which can be effectively served by transit, but are not effectively served by expenditures on motor vehicle capacity.
4. Reduces greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by reducing single- and low-occupancy private vehicle travel. SACOG has determined that the most effective way to meet GHG reduction targets is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), largely by providing an effective transit network.
5. Creates more livable communities by encouraging people to walk, bicycle, and use transit. Research indicates that people who live in transit-rich and walkable areas are healthier than those who live in car-oriented areas, and businesses in these same areas are also more successful.

We include in our transit investment recommendations: enhanced bus stops and light rail stations, sidewalks, enhanced and frequent and safe street crossings, and bicycle infrastructure which allow easy and safe connections to transit. Low income communities in Sacramento County often have decent transit service but the street network to access that transit imposes unacceptable safety hazards. This must be corrected.

Past transportation investments have emphasized expanded capacity for motor vehicle travel. It is now time to change priorities for investment:

1. State of good repair for roadways (fix-it-first).
2. Transit, including operations, maintenance, and capital.
3. Walking and bicycling infrastructure, particularly that which accesses transit.

STAR would like Sacramento Transportation Authority to dedicate a board meeting to discussion of transit, because it is so important in meeting the goals of the community and achieving an effective and economically productive transportation system.