

From: Sabrina Merlo <sabrina@bayareabikes.org>
To: Steve Heminger <sheminger@mtc.ca.gov>
Date: 3/5/2008 6:05:02 AM

March 5, 2008

Steve Heminger
Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Via Email

Dear Mr. Heminger:

In response to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's T2035 Call for Projects, and per Ms. Nguyen's direction, the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition hereby submits its program requests for the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan:

1. Expand the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Account budget to \$1 billion over 25 years (\$40 million/year) to accelerate build-out of the Regional Bicycle Network and pedestrian projects.
2. Extend the life of the very successful Safe Routes to Transit program with continued and increased investment by adding an additional \$250 million over 25 years (an additional \$10 million/year).
3. Create a regional Safe Routes to School program funded at \$250 million over 25 years (\$10 million/year).
4. Create a \$500 million Bay Area Bridge Access Program to provide pedestrian and bicycle access on major state bridges such as the West Span of the Bay Bridge and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

BABC fully supports MTC's decision to define a T2035 "vision" based upon protecting our climate, improving safety, improving air quality, and reducing vehicle miles of travel (VMT) and traffic congestion.

If T2035 is to achieve these vital goals and make progress towards its new performance measures (particularly the Safety target), we submit that the region must greatly increase its investment in bicycling and walking. These active transportation modes are critical to creating a healthy and vibrant region: they are the only truly zero-emission, carbon-free modes of travel, and they are also the most affordable means of transportation.

The Commission has articulated a bold vision. It can only be achieved by bold action. On behalf of 11,000+ bicycle coalition members throughout the Bay Area, BABC urges the Commission to incorporate our recommendations as expressed in our attached T2035 Platform for Active Transportation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Merlo

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Sabrina Merlo
Regional Advocacy Director

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