

Bay Area CMA Directors

March 1, 2006

Steve Heminger
Executive Director, MTC
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

RE: Comments on "Routine Accommodation of Bicyclists and Pedestrians in the Bay Area" Recommendations

Dear Steve:

MTC staff reviewed the results and proposed recommendations from the "Routine Accommodation of Bicyclists and Pedestrians in the Bay Area" Study at our meeting of February 24th. MTC is to be commended for developing an inventorying of bike and pedestrian accommodation in the Bay Area. This should prove to be useful to MTC and the Counties.

MTC's recent draft Strategic Plan recommends there be increased delegation of the bicycle/pedestrian program to the CMA's. The study states, "While the Commission should continue to establish overall policy guidance and project selection criteria consistent with the adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, it would be more efficient and cost-effective to delegate 100% of project selection to the CMA's rather than have two separate processes". The Directors agree with that concept of delegation in this area and would recommend that this be the recommended policy direction.

The current recommendations in the "Routine Accommodation Study" run counter to that concept. Draft recommendations would restrict the ability of counties and cities to implement the projects identified as key in their respective adopted bike plans rather than encourage them. Many of the recommendations from the study limit countywide flexibility in the use of TDA funding, require expenditures on projects not identified in local bike plans, recommend percentages on the allocation of sales tax expenditures counter to local ordinances, and define a prescriptive review process for local Bike Advisory Committees and project review. Therefore, these should not be included in the policy.

The CMA's are substantially engaged through comprehensive and well coordinated outreach in the development of bicycle/pedestrian programs and projects at the local level. These efforts have been very successful. There is not a need at this time for a prescriptive policy directing those efforts.

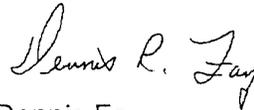
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We strongly urge you to limit the policy direction to the delegation approach consistent with the Strategic Plan and look forward to additional discussion with MTC staff and Commissioners on this issue. Please call Mike Zdon at (707) 259-8634 if we can add any additional information.

Sincerely,



Mike Zdon, CMA Moderator
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency



Dennis Fay
Alameda County CMA



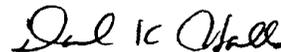
Robert K. McCleary
Contra Costa Transportation Authority



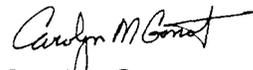
Rich Napier
San Mateo County CMA



Jose Luis Moscovich
San Francisco Transportation Authority



Daryl Halls
Solano Transportation Authority



Carolyn Gonot
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority



Dianne Steinhauser
Transportation Agency of Marin



Suzanne Wilford
Sonoma Transportation Authority

cc: Doug Johnson, MTC