



June 23, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Transit Funding in SB 101 (Skinner)

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to you to today to urge your support for the Legislature’s two-party agreement on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 budget, captured in SB 101 (Skinner). SB 101 would maintain the full funding commitment for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) established in the FY 2022-23 budget, provide \$1.1 billion for the new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Grant program, create flexibility in the TIRCP and Zero-Emission Transit Capital Grant program to help address pressing operating deficits at transit agencies statewide, and sets the stage for long-term, structural reform to transit funding and operations in California.

The funding levels provided by SB 101 are necessary to protect transit service over the next several years, as California’s transit agencies collectively face a multibillion funding shortfall, while also maintaining capacity to build the transformative capital projects needed to meet our state’s future mobility needs. We understand that SB 101 will not address the full operations funding needs of California’s transit agencies, but we see the bill as a critical step forward in our efforts save public transit. We also know that without your support for the significant funding levels the Legislature has advanced in SB 101 for transit capital and operations, we will lose the progress the state has made toward our environmental, mobility, public health, and equity objectives; and irreparably harm a system that is central to California’s climate leadership and global economic standing. We believe strongly that, at the very least, the funding levels for transit capital and operations included in SB 101 must be maintained in the final budget agreement.

As budget negotiations continue, we also urge you to support the statutory relief measures identified in the two-party agreement, but which are not reflected in SB 101. These statutory relief measures would continue to pause state-level farebox recovery ratio and operating cost per hour requirements, maintain flexibility in the State Transit Assistance – State of Good Repair Program, and expand the same flexibility in the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. In doing so, these statutory relief measures would provide budget-neutral support to California's transit agencies that further aid their recovery from the pandemic and that build into a much larger and necessary discussion on Transportation Development Act reform. While we have not seen the final accountability measures offered by the Legislature, we urge you to support its focus on requiring transit agencies that exercise flexibility in the capital funds they receive to revisit their service models and implement ridership recovery strategies. In receiving new funding for operations, California's transit agencies are fully prepared to address the accountability concerns expressed by state legislators and abide by new requirements.

Again, we urge you to support at least the funding levels for transit capital and operations included in SB 101. We look forward to continuing to work with you and legislative leaders to address the needs of California's transit agencies.

Sincerely,

Michael Pimentel, Executive Director
[California Transit Association](#)

Jacklyn Cuddy, Executive Director
[California Association for Coordinated Transportation](#)

Jeff Shaffer, Chairman
[California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union](#)

Shane Gusman, Director
[California Teamsters Public Affairs Council](#)

Louie Costa, Director
[California State Legislative Board of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Transportation Division \(SMART-TD\)](#)

Robert Estrada, Regional Director
[Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, Marine Division of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union](#)

Captain Ezra L. Hunter, Jr.,
Regional Representative
[International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots U.I.G.-P.M.R. / AFL-CIO](#)

Michael Quigley, Executive Director
[California Alliance for Jobs](#)

Jon Switalski, Executive Director
[Rebuild SoCal Partnership](#)

Kiana Valentine, Executive Director
[Transportation California](#)

Tim McRae, Senior Vice President,
Sustainable Growth
[Silicon Valley Leadership Group](#)

Tracy Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer
[Los Angeles County Business Federation](#)

Stuart Waldman, President
[Valley Industry & Commerce Association \(VICA\)](#)

Rena Leddy, President
[California Downtown Association](#)

Wade Rose, President
[Advance SF](#)

Cynthia Murray, President and CEO
[North Bay Leadership Council](#)

Brandon Dawson, Director
[Sierra Club California](#)

Adrian Martinez, Deputy Managing Attorney
[Earthjustice](#)

Carolina Martinez, Climate Justice Director
[Environmental Health Coalition](#)

Bill Higgins, Executive Director
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Laura Tolkoff, Director of Transportation Policy, [SPUR](#)

Zack Deutsch-Gross, Policy Director
[TransForm](#)

Ian Griffiths, Policy Director
[Seamless Bay Area](#)

Colin Parent, CEO and General Counsel
[Circulate San Diego](#)

Colin Fiske, Executive Director
[Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities](#)

Jonathan Matz, California Senior Policy Manager,
[Safe Routes Partnership](#)

Kevin C. Shin, Deputy Director
[California Walks](#)

[Sonoma County Climate Activist Network](#)

Annie Lee, Managing Director of Policy
[Stop AAPI Hate](#)

Manjusha Kulkarni, Executive Director
[AAPI Equity Alliance](#)

Cynthia Choi and Vincent Pan, Co-Executive Directors
[Chinese for Affirmative Action](#)

Brian Hanlon, CEO
[California YIMBY](#)

Tomiquia Moss, Founder & CEO
[All Home](#)

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 5
The Honorable Josh Becker, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2
The Honorable Steve Bennett, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Tollefson, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency
Chad Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary for Rail and Transit, California State
Transportation Agency
James Hacker, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Steve Cliff, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board