Our Priorities in 2017

As TransForm celebrates our 20th year, we are reflecting on our accomplishments that have made transit, biking, and walking safer, more affordable, and more accessible for millions of Californians. And it’s working! Solo driving is on the decline as a way to get around in the Bay Area for the first time, and the rest of the state is not far behind.

In 2017 we’ll continue leading initiatives that make California affordable, connect more people to opportunity, and help solve our climate crisis. Given potential federal cuts to transportation and housing, California must lead the charge for solutions that protect our climate while advancing social justice.

Here are some of our key priorities for 2017.

Working for transportation equity

TransForm advocates for transportation spending and policies that improve the lives of people who have been left behind by transportation decisions in the past.

● With a broad coalition of organizations, we are supporting a Transportation Equity Bill Package that includes AB 17, a bill TransForm is co-sponsoring to create free and reduced-fare transit passes for low-income students across California.

● We are leading an effort for Silicon Valley to adopt an innovative strategy that will break up gridlock and generate money for transit. Converting an existing lane on Highway 101 to an express lane could move more people without widening the highway. The toll revenue from solo drivers paying into the lane would fund alternatives like transit and carpooling.

● We are keeping the pressure on BART to maintain focus on its core system and current riders, not irresponsible expansion projects. Our report, Crossing Together, urges BART and other agencies to prioritize social equity at every step of the way as plans take shape for a new transbay rail crossing.

● Our Safe Routes to Schools program brings improved safety and walking and biking options to 180 schools in Alameda County, mostly serving low-income families.

Contact us to learn more:

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Increasing access, opportunity, and mobility

TransForm will lead the field to ensure that new mobility options (like ride-hailing, bike share, and autonomous vehicles) promote affordability and access for disadvantaged communities. We’ll also push for vehicles to be shared and electric to protect our climate and improve local air quality.

- We are leading social equity outreach for bike share in the Bay Area region, engaging people of color and low-income communities to shape the roll-out in five cities and ensure that bike share expansion creates health and economic benefits for those who need them most.
- Partnering with community-based organizations and app developer Swiftly, we will distribute incentives and information that helps low-income and transit-reliant residents find better, more affordable transportation options in San Francisco.
- We are convening dialogues with policymakers and advocates to collaborate on making new mobility programs more equitable and climate-friendly.

Advocating for more affordable homes

Displacement is tearing at the social fabric of many low-income neighborhoods. We need to find ways to keep communities whole while creating more affordable homes near transit and reducing the combined cost of housing and transportation.

- Our GreenTRIP program is leading a paradigm shift toward housing that supports sustainable transportation choices. We aim to certify at least 14 new GreenTRIP residential developments in 2017, including several with 100% affordable homes and others with zero parking.
- We’re getting more cities to join Richmond, Sunnyvale, and Emeryville in adopting GreenTRIP strategies into their planning codes.
- In 2016 we helped 14 affordable housing developments across California win $180 million in state funding. We will continue to help affordable housing developers win funding by designing smart transportation strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money for residents.

TransForm promotes walkable communities with excellent transportation choices to connect people of all incomes to opportunity, keep California affordable, and help solve our climate crisis.

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