

County of Riverside

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SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES **FIRST DISTRICT**

December 2, 2024

Secretary Toks Omishakin
California State Transportation Agency
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Draft 2024 CAPTI Actions Comment Letter

Dear Secretary Omishakin,

As a former State Assemblymember and a current Riverside County Supervisor, I am writing to express deep concerns with California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) Draft 2024 Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) Actions. I am specifically alarmed by proposals to Deprioritize highway and road investments in Senate Bill 1 (Beall, 2017) gas tax funding program guidelines, and codifying CAPTI Guiding Principles in statute.

Congestion relief is ranked among the issues of greatest public concern in our region, with nearly one million of the 2.5 million Riverside County residents driving to get to their jobs. With Riverside County expected to grow by 17% to 3 million residents over the next 25 years, our region is the key to statewide success for meeting housing needs and it defies logic to saddle our transportation projects with the costs of full impractical VMT neutrality in order to receive SB 1 gas tax funds that our residents pay to the state while they sit in worsening congestion. Moreover, CalSTA's proposed policy conflicts directly with the expectations of voters who affirmed the need for SB 1 funding in 2018 by rejecting Proposition 6.

Furthermore, efforts to codify CAPTI Guiding Principles into statute are simply premature. The state must first study CAPTI's impacts on transportation mobility in regions across the state. Codifying any portion of CAPTI ties the hands of agencies awarding transportation funding. Without consideration for project merits and regional needs, our projects will no longer be competitive, leaving our residents behind with insufficient transportation systems. Our communities need funding to support all transportation modes.

Requiring Riverside County to continue to build affordable housing for residents of LA, OC, and SD Counties (and other parts of the state, nation, and world), while preventing us from expanding our ability to carry the traffic is a recipe for disaster. Any update to CAPTI must be pragmatic, flexible, and implementable. Leave SB 1 programs alone, and do not pursue the codifying of CAPTI Guiding Principles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Kevin D. Jeffries
Riverside County Board of Supervisors, 1st District