



Richmond SPOKES

Why re invent the wheel... When you can tighten the spokes

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March 05, 2013

Mary Nichols, Chairperson
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Transportation Coalition Proposal in Cap and Trade Investment Plan

Dear Chairperson Nichols:

Richmond Spokes – an entrepreneurial youth training program located in Richmond, California -- is writing in support of the proposal submitted by the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities. Through Education, Empowerment, Employment, and Engagement, Richmond Spokes encourages self-sufficiency, job skill training, educational opportunities, and a culture of stewards who use cycling and sustainable transportation to enable physical, personal, and professional mobility.

This proposal would allocate funds equitably to regional governments to establish a competitive grant process for local entities, under state criteria, to incentivize integrated strategies that combine land use changes with infrastructure investments at the neighborhood scale to achieve greatest long term greenhouse gas emission (GHG) benefits.

The Transportation Coalition's proposal would stimulate local innovation and flexibility to get the greatest GHG reductions and best overall benefits for communities – while cost effectively meeting the goals of AB 32 and supporting co-benefits including: air quality, public health, resource protection, equity, affordable housing, agriculture, and safety.

This proposal integrates livable community infrastructure, maintenance, and operations of the transportation system to maximize GHG reductions from combinations of strategies – rather than single purpose investments. It also would serve as leverage to investments in rail modernization, interregional plans, and other funding mechanisms to encourage more sustainable growth and transportation infrastructure.

California faces a significant shortage in funds to maintain our existing transportation system, and lacks adequate funding to build an active transportation network. This proposal would provide funding for livable community investments to meet the challenges of increasing development in existing urban and developed areas to meet the requirements of SB 375. This proposal would fund GHG-reducing investments at the local level that implement regional Sustainable Communities Strategies within existing urbanized or developed areas – while also helping local governments meet critical sustainable transportation infrastructure and maintenance needs.



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We support the Transportation Coalition's proposal for combinations of transportation investments, including: transit service, operating, and maintenance costs; road and bridge maintenance; retrofits for complete streets and urban greening; and clean technology infrastructure – all integrated with land use changes to achieve the maximum greenhouse gas emission reductions from the transportation sector.

This proposal is consistent with AB 32, SB 375, and the provisions of AB 1532 and SB 535 --- and most equitably and effectively meets the transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the state and local communities. We request that this proposal be considered for inclusion in the Investment Plan.

Cap and trade revenue is public money resulting from the administration of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. It must be spent to implement that law. We believe the Transportation Coalition's proposal provides the most public and local community benefits while achieving the most cost effective implementation of AB 32.

Thank you for your consideration to include funding for this proposal in the AB 32 Investment Plan.

Brian Drayton

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