



February 27, 2013

Mary Nichols
Chairwoman
California Air Resources Board (CARB)
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairwoman Nichols and California Air Resources Board (CARB) Board Members:

As Executive Director of FAST (Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic), I am writing to request that CARB dedicate Cap and Trade revenues to transportation sources which will support increased transit ridership and provide additional travel modes.

FAST is a community initiative of the non-profit California Community Foundation (CCF). We are a public-private coalition of business, labor, education, transit, planning and community organizations, and individuals, representing over two million business owners, workers, faculty, students, and residents in Los Angeles County who all want to improve our region's mobility. FAST is dedicated to implementing practical, short-term solutions to traffic congestion in the Los Angeles region – the worst traffic crisis in the entire nation – which costs our economy \$12 billion each year and a total of 515 million hours each year in lost productivity.

FAST is a member of the Sustainable Communities for All Coalition, and endorses the "Sustainable Communities for All: Cap and Trade Funding for Transportation and Housing Choices" Proposal. We are committed to achieving the vision of SB 375 equitably by building the economic, environmental and transportation future of California. Investing in affordable mobility and housing options to all allow remaining household funds to be further invested in education, entrepreneurship and additional quality of life.

FAST is also a member of the Livable Communities Advisory Committee, which participated in the report "Building Livable Communities: Enhancing Economic Competitiveness in Los Angeles" with the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) Institute and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). This report underscored the need for investment in development near transit stations that also offers rail, bus, shuttle, and car-share, bike-share and bicycle parking, and increased pedestrian access through a Mobility Hub to encourage multi-modal travel that is as available as travel by car. These travel modes also provide cleaner mobility options toward reducing the nearly 40% of California's air emissions currently attributed to transportation sources.

Cap and Trade revenues are crucially needed in order to support the operation and supply of cleaner mobility options which increase transit ridership, and reduce air emissions. We face a situation in which both state and federal revenues to invest in public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure are restricted and insufficient for investing in transportation options that can help us reduce dependence solely on auto travel. Cap and Trade funds should be spent on providing additional efficient and affordable means of getting to and from work, school, healthcare, and other vital destinations and services. Federal transit revenues cannot be used for funding operations and maintenance of transit and state gas tax revenues are also restricted from this by the California Constitution. Both in the short and long-term, cap-and-trade revenues for transportation should be invested in projects and programs that increase transit ridership, expand transit networks, and provide safe streets for walking and biking.

Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic

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Los Angeles is taking great steps to invest in world-class transit systems that serve transit-oriented neighborhoods. In 2009, nearly 700 million of 1.5 billion transit trips in CA were in our metro area. At the same time transit agencies suffered more than \$4 billion in cuts from 2000-2009. Cap-and-trade revenues can provide a much-needed funding boost at a time when it is most needed by investing in our transit systems, reducing GHGs, reducing traffic, saving on transportation costs, improving air quality and providing us with real transportation options that can reduce our dependence solely on auto travel..

For these reasons, FAST urges CARB to focus Cap-and-Trade resources toward investment in a transportation network with sufficient operating and infrastructure improvement capital, so that California can achieve its goal of long-term GHG reductions, increased mobility and economic sustainability.

Sincerely,



Hilary Norton
Executive Director, FAST – Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic

cc:

CARB Board Member Daniel Sperling
CARB Board Member Phil Serna
CARB Board Member Dorene D'Adamo
CARB Board Member Barbara Riordan
CARB Board Member John R. Balmes, M.D.
CARB Board Member Hector De La Torre
CARB Board Member Sandra Berg
CARB Board Member Ron Roberts
CARB Board Member Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.

