

Coalition for Smarter Transportation

Comments to California Air Resources Board

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDITIONAL GHG REDUCTIONS FROM PETROLEUM

CARB and its affiliates should look towards policies that have a direct impact on VMT. Improving GHG emissions from fuel technologies is important and should not be dismissed, but reducing VMT has a compounding impact. Not only are emission reductions achieved directly through less GHG emissions, but less VMT means less congestion and in return a reduction of GHG emissions stemming from cars stuck in traffic. A report by Inrix found that a 3% reduction in VMT led to a 30% reduction in congestion.

The Coalition for Smarter Transportation (CoaST) is an organization of public and private sector organizations that have come together to promote, educate and advocate for Smarter Transportation.

Smarter Transportation encompasses two concepts:

First, we must be “smarter” about our transportation and infrastructure policies. We can no longer depend on capital investment alone to fix our transportation system. At all levels of government, we need smarter transportation policies that not only look to increase infrastructure investment but also pave the way to a better performing transportation system.

Second, we must integrate ‘smarter’ technologies into the way we build, plan, and operate our transportation system.

CoaST provides a forum for innovative transportation providers, municipal governments, and others to share and learn from experiences through the development of best practices, direct technical assistance, and proliferation of trusted data. Through this forum, CoaST can provide State and municipal governments the resources they need to develop policies, practices, and programs that encourage smarter transportation policies. CoaST has amassed experts from around the world to help implement and execute Smarter Transportation.

We believe that CARB and other municipal governments should look to enact policies that have shown to have a real impact on VMT. CoaST is willing to provide a panel of experts and additional information at your request; however, we offer the following suggestions:



Coalition for
SMARTER TRANSPORTATION



Website: www.smartertransportation.org

Phone: 202-285-6414

Email: Jason@SmarterTransportation.org

1) Expand what works!

California is home to numerous transportation policies that have had a significant impact on VMT, specifically:

- **City of San Francisco TDM policy** - this policy requires employers and developers to implement a variety of remedies that encourage non-SOV travel. The policy does not prescribe any specific actions but requires employers to take some action.
- **The Bay area transit benefit ordinance** - This policy requires employers with more than a certain number of employees to offer a pre-tax transit benefit. This policy has led to more than 44,000 cars a day to be removed from the Bay Area. This policy should be expanded Statewide.
- **Encourage HOV and better enforce policies**-California has one of the largest HOV and HOT lane networks in the nation. However, scofflaws and cheaters slow down the system and remove the attraction to share a ride. The State should take steps to move from an HOV enforcement scheme to an HOV verification scheme whereby only those who can verify their HOV status are receiving the benefits. This will increase the flow of those lanes and encourage more people to carpool, vanpool, or take transit along those corridors. State and municipal agencies should expand these networks and add additional programs that encourage HOV on non-tolled or restricted toll lanes.

2) Invite Innovation

Too often agencies specifically look to contract for a solution or product that they seek, we believe that CARB and other agencies should throw the door open and make funding available to any solution that can reduce VMT or GHG regardless of whether its offered by a public or private entity. Open solicitations and competition will provide decision makers with a variety of options on solutions.

Over the course of the next few months, CoaST will be developing a 'playbook' for local governments. We look forward to not only incorporating many of the policies supported by CARB, but we also look forward to sharing with you our findings.

Humbly submitted,

The Coalition for Smarter Transportation