

Ms. Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Higher priority for VMT reduction in the AB 32 Scoping Plan

Dear Ms. Nichols:

Thank you for your excellent work on the draft AB32 Scoping Plan. The plan is an exciting and bold step in meeting the challenge of climate change and I am glad that California is stepping up to become a leader for the rest of the nation and for the world.

I am writing to urge you to prioritize **policies to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)** in the AB 32 Scoping Plan. Because the transportation sector is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in California, and because local land use decisions play such a key part in fuel consumption patterns, I urge you to elevate the priority of VMT reduction in the Scoping Plan's strategies for greenhouse gas reductions.

Californians are asking for relief from exorbitant gas prices through shorter commutes and affordable homes in walkable neighborhoods. The AB 32 Scoping Plan is a major opportunity to provide leadership and set policy direction not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also to meet Californians' desires for better planned communities and transportation options. Therefore, I urge you to:

1. Plan for higher CO2 reductions from smart transportation and land use planning.
2. Implement this by supporting more innovative measures that can also reduce congestion and commute times and incentivize climate-friendly development (including those still under evaluation by CARB).
3. Focus state capital programs to provide funding to local governments that are planning for climate-friendly development.

The Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission has adopted a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2035 through land use and transportation planning. MTC has set a VMT reduction goal of a 10% per-capita decrease by 2035, compared to an anticipated increase of 10% if no action is taken. CARB should match the leadership that is already happening throughout the state by making VMT reduction a significant part of California's climate strategy and providing the resources needed to make it happen.

Sincerely,

