



June 8, 2022

Re: AB 2181 (Berman) OPPOSE

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers and Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara,

Per action taken by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors on June 2, 2022, I respectfully request your jurisdiction to consider opposing Assembly Bill 2181. Please see the attached letter on behalf of the Board indicating VTA's opposition.

VTA remains committed to implementing governance reforms initiated by the VTA Board in 2019.

Thank you for your consideration and support of public transportation in Santa Clara County.

A letter stating your jurisdiction's official position on AB 2181 can be submitted electronically at <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/faces/index.xhtml>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Jones'.

Charles "Chapple" Jones
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Cc: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Policy Advisory Committee
Cities Association of Santa Clara County



June 8, 2022

Honorable Marc Berman
Assemblymember
State Capitol
Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 2181 (Berman) OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), I respectfully submit the Board of Directors' opposition to Assembly Bill 2181. We appreciate and commend your efforts to reform local governance in Santa Clara County and agree that our organization, like any other, has areas in which it can certainly improve. However, we found that these proposed changes to the structure of the VTA Board of Directors in AB 2181 will undermine this policy making and oversight body as well as diminish our chances of successfully passing future local sales tax measures. These measures represent more than 63 percent of the funding for the day to day services VTA and its workforce provide. They would further weaken our position in competition for federal, state and regional funds.

AB 2181 would reduce the number of local elected officials on the VTA Board through a complex process to select city group representatives. The replacement of the Board with the proposed hybrid structure will limit the role of local elected officials who make the land use decisions that ultimately determine the transportation needs in the county. These local elected officials bring experience providing policy direction and oversight of the services VTA provides to the many jurisdictions within the county, the pay and benefits workers receive and their pensions. These local elected officials are vital to ensuring that cities' priorities are represented in transportation sales tax measures and ensuring city council support.

With these concerns in mind, the VTA Board voted unanimously to oppose AB 2181 on June 2, 2022. When we voted, we made clear that VTA is not opposed to improvements and pledged to complete the reforms developed by the Board Enhancement Committee in a thoughtful process that began in 2019.

Thank you for your leadership, consideration and service to our community. We look forward to continuing to work with you on future transportation policies, projects and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Jones', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Charles "Chappie" Jones
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Cc: County of Santa Clara Legislative Delegation
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Policy Advisory Committee
Cities Association of Santa Clara County