



2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

Office: 559-675-0721 Facsimile: 559-675-9328
Website: www.maderactc.org

September 12, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2438 (Friedman) Transportation Planning: alignment with state plans and greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, and state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the Madera Region, I am writing to request a veto on AB 2438 (Friedman), which would mandate a “one size fits all” approach to tackling mutual goals of addressing critical air quality and mobility issues by constraining all state funds for purposes of complying with the Governor’s Executive order to implement the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and the California Transportation Plan. The bill codifies CAPTI as adopted in July 2021, providing no opportunity to modify to compel mutually desired outcomes statewide.

As a self-help county, MCTC has aggressively advocated for pronounced active transportation, rail (high-speed rail, Alameda Corridor Express and San Joaquins service) and transit investments to support the Highway 99 corridor, a major goods movement corridor, an arterial to national parks, such as Sequoia National Park and Yosemite, and a lifeline route for evacuating Valley residents. Our multimodal advocacy predates the issuance of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-19-19, upon which CAPTI is predicated. We are also working closely with Caltrans on deploying electric vehicle charging stations along the 99 Corridor throughout the San Joaquin Valley. However, denying access to billions of dollars in state funds will undermine our ability to be a funding partner on the state highway system and exacerbate our response to safety, climate change, goods movement, and promises made to Madera County voters.

Many disadvantaged communities within the Madera Region, including farmworkers, laborers, and tourists that drive our local economy, must rely on the automobile as other modes of transportation are not readily accessible. The Madera Region contains several rural pockets reachable only via local roadways, does not have easy access to public transportation, and lacks significant safety for bicycles and pedestrians as many of the local roads do not contain sidewalks or designated bicycle lanes. Rather than prohibit our ability to access state funding, the bill should be amended to allow for flexibility in accessing state funding for projects resulting in greenhouse gas reductions, multimodal investments, make vehicle miles traveled (VMT) proportional to a region’s density, and consider investments to build out rail systems including the Altamont Corridor Express, San Joaquins system, Valley Link, and high-

speed rail, accelerate delivery of zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and incentives, and enhance broadband access to reduce VMT from super commuters.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you veto AB 2438. We are highly motivated to collaborate closely with you and the author to improve air quality and mobility in our region. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our legislative advocate, Gus Khouri, at (916) 605-8975 or gus@khouriconsult.com.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor
Executive Director

cc: Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor Newsom
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Secretary, Governor Newsom
The Honorable Laura Friedman, Assembly Member, 43rd District
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Assembly Member, 5th District
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 12th District
The Honorable Adam Gray, Assembly Member, 21st District