



City of Needles

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January 14, 2024

Raymond W. Wolfe
Executive Director
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
1170 W. Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410

Subject: Letter of Support for an SBCTA's Application for a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant: A 360 Degree Look at Senate Bill 960 for San Bernardino County: An Implementation Plan

Dear Dr. Wolfe:

As the Mayor of the City of Needles, I am writing to express our support for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority's (SBCTA's) Sustainable Communities Competitive grant application to conduct the planning study "A 360 Degree Look at Senate Bill 960 for San Bernardino County: An Implementation Plan" (360° for SB 960 for short). In part, SB 960 requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to identify the department's responsibilities in supporting the movement of cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users on the state highway system.

The project "360° for SB 960" will identify potential non-motorized and transit access projects and performance measures for complete street assets along the state highway system in San Bernardino County. SBCTA will take a 360° bottom-up approach to assist Caltrans in meeting SB 960 requirements by the July 1, 2027, deadline. To accomplish this, SBCTA will work with the public, member jurisdictions, transit operators, and Caltrans District 8 to (1) determine existence and conditions of bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities along state highways, (2) define non-motorized and transit performance measures and identify solutions for supporting these modes of travel on or along state highway routes, and (3) identify potential projects, costs, and benefits that can be incorporated into state and/or local plans for future implementation.

The state highway system serves as the transportation arteries for movement of goods and people in, to, and through San Bernardino County. While single occupancy vehicles and trucks have long dominated the state highway system, implementation of SB 960 will identify non-motorized and transit access projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and that could be eligible for state highway operation and protection program (SHOPP) funding. This is particularly important for state highways in the Inland Empire, where more thought has traditionally been given to cars and trucks than to non-motorized modes and transit users. Increasing active transportation and transit will not only reduce VMT but also provide residents with more accessible and affordable mode choice options.

Given the legislative compliance and countywide benefits that the proposed 360° for SB 960 Project has to offer, it is an ideal candidate for Caltrans' Sustainable Communities Competitive grant funding. We strongly support this worthy project to assist Caltrans and local jurisdictions in addressing the requirements of SB 960 in San Bernardino County.

Sincerely,

Janet Jernigan
Mayor
City of Needles
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