

Freeway Expansion Projects Subordinate to More Sustainable Alternatives

WHEREAS, (1) climate-stabilizing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission-reduction targets must be achieved by all significant categories of GHG emission, to have any hope of stabilizing the climate at a livable level; (2) over 35% of California's GHG is emitted by on-road vehicles; and (3) both (a) fleet-efficiency improvements and (b) driving reductions are required, if on-road vehicles are going to achieve climate-stabilizing targets; and

WHEREAS, (1) projects that add freeway lanes, whether they are (a) general-purpose lanes, (b) high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes, or (c) managed lanes that give priority to buses, will initially create additional space on the freeway; (2) this additional space will induce enough additional traffic to fill in that space; and (3) this (often referred to as "induced traffic demand") means that the original level of congestion will return; and

WHEREAS, projects that add more freeway lanes (1) don't relieve congestion; (2) do result in more (a) frustrated drivers, (b) vehicle-miles-travelled (VMT), (c) criteria pollutants that harm health, especially in low-income neighborhoods, and (d) GHG emissions; and (3) use money that could instead perhaps be used for (a) road maintenance projects, (b) improvements in mass transit, (c) improvements in conditions for active-transportation, (d) projects to improve the way we pay for the use of roads, and/or (e) projects to improve the way we pay for the use of vehicle parking;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego County Democratic Party supports the subordination of freeway construction to more sustainable alternatives such as (1) mass transit; (2) redevelopment to reduce sprawl and jobs-housing imbalance; (3) new housing close to transit; (4) "complete streets" to encourage walking and biking; (5) systems to improve the way we pay for road, parking, and transit use; and (6) the upgrading of transit systems, such as electrification, automation, and better service, including improved frequency and duration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this support be communicated to our Governor, Senate Pro-Tem, Assembly Speaker, the Air Resources Board, and the California Transportation Commission.

Submitted by Mike Bullock, mike_bullock@earthlink.net, 760-754-8025, DEMCCO 2nd Vice President
A nearly identical resolution was adopted by the Democratic Club of Carlsbad and Oceanside on 2/25/17
Here is a list of supporters.: Deborah Cunningham-Skurnik; AD-73; Region 18 Director; Orange County Democratic Party Central Committee Executive Board; DNC Delegate in 1992, 2012, and 2016; Jessica Hayes, AD-80, Chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee; Nathan Fletcher, AD-80, Former AD 75 Assemblyman (2 terms), Candidate for San Diego County District 4 Supervisor, married to Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher ;Lowell Young, AD-5, CDP Delegate, CDP Executive Board, CDP Legislative Committee; Lynne Wasley, AD-10, Marin County DP Central Committee, Novato Democratic Club Vice President; Igor Tregub, AD-15, CDP Delegate and CDP