



Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1020 N. Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

Chair Weiner, Vice Chair Niello,

On behalf of the Association for Commuter Transportation's Northern California and Southern California Chapter's 380+ members, representing local cities, MPOs, transit agencies, major employers, universities/colleges, and other organization committed to creating efficient and sustainable transportation options for our communities, we are writing to express our objections to the proposed \$600 million cut from the Active Transportation Program funding. Neglecting funding for micromobility and pedestrian infrastructure not only jeopardizes the safety of both user and driver, but is also starkly antithetical to California's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 85%, gas consumption by 94%, and air pollution by 71% by 2045. Rather than advancing these objectives, cutting funds from the Active Transportation Program to spend on traffic congestion inducing projects will move California further away from hitting the climate goals set in 2022.

In addition to the environmental issues posed, cutting funds from the Active Transportation Program severely undermines accessibility and equity for everyday Californians. In 2021, 52% of all trips taken by all modes of transportation were under three miles, with 28% of trips were less than one mile long. Only 2% of trips exceeded 50 miles. While these short-range trips that make up a majority of trips are easily accomplished by scooter, bike, or foot, they can only be completed safely if the proper infrastructure construction and maintenance exists to support them. Cars are expensive to own; data from AAA suggests that between gas, maintenance, insurance, depreciation and a host of other factors, it costs over \$12,000 a year to own a car in California. This is not merely unsustainable environmentally, but economically as well, and squeezing out affordable and sustainable transportation options takes a major toll on Californians already living paycheck to paycheck.

With the state staring down a \$45 billion dollar deficit, we fully acknowledge and appreciate the tough position California leaders find themselves in, and the tough decisions that will need to be made going forward. Throughout this process, we simply ask that California not balance the budget on the backs of everyday Californians and work against state climate initiatives. There is a more sustainable and prosperous future for both our state and it's inhabitants within reach, and the Association for Commuter Transportation's Northern California and Southern California chapters stand by ready to help make that a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Straus".

David Straus
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Foley".

Melissa Foley
President, Northern California Chapter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Gaul".

Aaron Gaul, TDM-CP
President, Southern California Chapter