



December 7, 2020

Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins

RE: Senate Transportation Committee Chairship

Dear Pro Tem Atkins,

The Transbay Coalition, as well as the undersigned, write to urge that you consider the following principles as you evaluate who to replace the esteemed Senator Jim Beall as the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. As mobility advocates in California, we have appreciated Senator Beall’s commitment to fighting climate change, improving mobility justice, and spurring economic growth through his pro- transit, biking and walking efforts during his time in the Senate.

Transportation is now the single largest source of carbon emissions in California and the lack of reliable, affordable, and healthy transportation options hits already impacted Californian communities hardest. For California to meet its vital climate and social equity goals, it is critical that the next Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee be a champion for transit, biking, walking and accessibility. We must make it easier for Californians to leave the car behind by increasing the speed, coverage, frequency and reliability of our transit network so working families can access jobs and move around. We strongly encourage you to select a Chair who will prioritize:

Rail Investment

In order to realize the vision of the 2040 State Rail Plan, the Senate Transportation Committee must continue to support policies that help streamline the development and funding of critical investments in metro, regional and high speed passenger rail projects like the second Transbay BART crossing. The next chair must also be committed

to seeing through the promised electrification of the Initial Operating Segment in the Central Valley, which suffers from dangerously unhealthy air quality.

Bus Operations

Millions of Californians depend on bus service to get to where they need to go. For too long, bus service has been neglected relative to highway and other transportation spending. We hope the next Senate Transportation Chair is a champion for bus operations, bus-only lanes on state and local roads, electric bus purchase and capital improvements such as Bus Rapid Transit.

Bike/Walk Investment

We urge that whoever is selected as the next Senate Transportation Committee Chair recognizes that millions of Californians depend on their own two feet to walk or bike to get where they need to go in the communities and that a transportation system that respects and encourages non-motorized options is one that will improve the health, safety, livability, and vibrancy of our communities. As the majority of all vehicle trips are for distances under six miles, state-level policies can play a crucial role in helping make walking or biking a viable option for more Californians

Seamless Systems

The heart of the Bay Area's transportation problem is fragmented transportation governance and we hope that the next Senate Transportation Committee Chair works with the community to pass legislation that will facilitate better coordination and efficiencies across these 27 different transit agencies.

In the new year, we look forward to working with you, the new committee chair and the rest of the committee to help California's transportation system be one that helps our wonderful state flourish!

Sincerely,

The Transbay Coalition, San Francisco Transit Riders, East Bay Transit Riders Union, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Bike East Bay, East Bay for Everyone, California YIMBY, Common Ground California, Bike SD, Circulate San Diego, Santa Cruz YIMBY, Neighborly Santa Cruz, Streets for People, Urban Environmentalists, Streets for All, Bike Santa Cruz County, San Francisco Bike Coalition, Friends of Caltrain, Active San Gabriel Valley, Sustainable Claremont, Day One, California Bicycle Coalition, San Diego County Bike Coalition and Climate Plan