



November 25, 2009

Susan Bransen  
Associate Deputy Director  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bransen:

I am writing to praise the inclusion of strong “complete streets” components within the California Transportation Commission’s (CTC) draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) guidelines and to urge the CTC to retain or strengthen these provisions. Ubuntu Green is a Sacramento-based 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that is committed to green principles, with a focus on underserved communities.

As noted in the draft guidance, “A ‘Complete Street’ is a transportation facility that is planned, designed, operated and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and motorists appropriate to the function and context of the facility.”

The CTC’s draft guidance goes on to: 1) note existing California law pertaining to complete streets, 2) explain how complete streets can improve public health, and 3) encourages (but does not mandate) regional transportation agencies to work with their local partners to ensure that complete streets-compatible projects are integrated into transportation planning and funding activities.

Complete streets are badly needed in California, where, according to the California Department of Public Health, obesity rates are skyrocketing. Furthermore, transit services are increasingly in demand, and fully twenty percent of traffic-related fatalities are pedestrians and bicyclists.

Complete streets will enable California communities to promote safer and healthier transportation while helping the state achieve key goals related to climate change and public health. The CTC should retain a strong complete streets component within its draft RTP guidelines. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Mason, Jr.  
President and CEO