RCTC
Riverside County Transportation Commission

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November 10, 2009

Bimla Rhinehart
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on the October 26, 2009, Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines

Dear Ms. ~~Rhinehart~~ Bimla:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) guidelines. The Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) comments on the draft guidelines specifically focus on the exemption language included in the SB 375 legislation.

RCTC requests that the CTC reference the exemption language stated in the legislation without further defining the language. For example, the exemption language in the statute reads as follows:

> *"Nothing in this section requires projects programmed for funding on or before December 31, 2011, to be subject to the provisions of this paragraph if they (i) are contained in the 2007 or 2009 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, (ii) are funded pursuant to Chapter 12.49 (commencing with Section 8879.20) of Division 1 of Title 2, or (iii) were specifically listed in a ballot measure prior to December 31, 2008, approving a sales tax increase for transportation projects. Nothing in this section shall require a transportation sales tax authority to change the funding allocations approved by the voters for categories of transportation projects in a sales tax measure adopted prior to December 31, 2010..."*

The exemption language in the draft RTP guidelines is more restrictive than the above statute language. Self Help counties worked diligently with the author of SB 375 to provide the most flexibility in exempting projects in voter-approved measure programs that span 20, 30, or even 40 years into the future.

RCTC understands and agrees with CTC staff that all committed projects should be programmed through construction. Specifically listing projects or categories of projects in measure ballots approved by voters demonstrates the Self Help counties' commitment and obligation to fund these projects through construction. However, the exemption language as written in the draft RTP guidelines implies that all projects must be programmed in the 2007 or 2009 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). There are many long range projects included in sales tax measures that will be implemented beyond the five to six year period of the FSTIP. Therefore, RCTC requests that the exemption language in the draft RTP guidelines be replaced by the language in statute in its entirety or be revised in such a way that is consistent with the statute.

Please contact me or Shirley Medina at (951) 787-7141 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Mayer
Executive Director