

Transit NOW: Resolution in Support of Expediting Construction of New Transit Projects in San Diego County within the Next Ten Years

WHEREAS, the San Diego region suffers pollution, congestion, health and economic impacts from an auto dominated transportation infrastructure which is failing to serve the public good; and

WHEREAS, reducing vehicle miles traveled is critical to meeting the State's urgent climate goals and increasing transit, bike and walk in the region's cities provides the pathway to climate stabilization; and

WHEREAS, 77% of San Diego voters believe that we can have both a strong economy and a healthy environment, and 72% of voters agree San Diego County should take a statewide leadership position in setting goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.;¹ and

WHEREAS, cities like New York have begun to create policy that directly links climate action and the expansion of transit with the fight against income inequality; and

WHEREAS, building an urban transit network would create high-quality construction, operations and maintenance jobs and transform and connect the region's cities and neighborhoods making them attractive centers for reinvestment, exchange and opportunity thereby uniting environmental, business and labor interests; and

WHEREAS, transportation is vital to environmental sustainability and a vibrant economy providing mobility for exchange among people, business and the community; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce traffic congestion, create cleaner air and create new jobs, San Diego County needs a new framework of public transit infrastructure to meet the region's economic, social, and mobility demands; and

WHEREAS, our region can create high-quality construction jobs for a wide variety of allied construction crafts and mechanical trades by expediting new transit projects within the next 10-year period, first prioritizing the region's urban core (the trolley ring), Sprinter, Coaster, and the Blue Line corridors; and

WHEREAS, improving San Diego's mass transit system to fully meet the transportation needs of working families has the potential to save workers the equivalent of a raise of \$1.26 - \$4 per (working) hour or \$218-\$698 per month in transportation expenses; and

WHEREAS, expedited transit development is needed to meet the requirements of California law, including AB 32, SB 375, and Executive Order S-3-05, and

WHEREAS, transportation equity is intimately tied to environmental justice by providing all San Diegans direct access to necessary goods and services, and

WHEREAS, constructing new transit, bike and walk projects under a Local Hire Agreement with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO will ensure San Diego County

residents have access to high-quality, sustainable middle-class careers with skilled training and safe working conditions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Caucus of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO supports expediting the construction of new transit projects in San Diego County within the next ten years, achieving climate justice and creating high-quality jobs in the region by:

- 1) Prioritizing funding and implementation of an integrated network of transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects in the urban core, Sprinter, Coaster and Blue Line corridors; and
- 2) Allocating TransNet funds to immediately invest in transit expenditures; and
- 3) Achieving at least a 50% transit, bike and walk mode share in the urban core, Sprinter, Coaster and Blue Line corridors; and
- 4) By delivering transit trips as a competitive alternative to auto trips; and
- 5) Requiring new transit, bike and walk projects be constructed under a Local Hire Agreement with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

ⁱ www.sdfoundation.org/Portals/0/Newsroom/PDF/PressReleases/320_425PolicyMemoFinal.pdf