



August 16, 2019

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino,
Chair Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 285 (Friedman) California Transportation Plan - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Portantino and Committee Members:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to support Assembly Bill 285 (Friedman). This bill seeks to ensure that current clean air and climate standards are accounted for within the California Transportation Plan (CTP).

California is home to the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States, with transportation pollution by far the leading cause. Transportation sources account for approximately 80 percent of smog-forming NOx emissions, 90 percent of diesel particle emissions, and close to half of our greenhouse gases in California. These pollutants impact air quality in local communities, contributing to a wide range of negative health outcomes, including asthma attacks, ER visits and hospitalizations, heart attacks, strokes and premature deaths. Carbon pollution from our transportation system drives climate change health impacts and the conditions for extreme heat, drought, wildfires and a wide range of associated public health risks.

Climate pollution from the transportation sector continues to rise despite increases in fuel efficiency and decreases in the carbon content of fuel. The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) stunning "Progress Report"¹ released in November 2018 clearly states: "California will not achieve the necessary greenhouse gas emissions reductions to meet mandates for 2030 and beyond without significant changes to how communities and transportation systems are planned, funded, and built." In response to this, AB 285 would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to address "how the state will achieve maximum feasible emissions reductions" needed to meet Clean Air Act requirements and California's 2030 climate standards when it prepares its future CTPs. Future plans would also be required to include Environmental Justice within the subject areas contained in the reports. AB 285 would also require the review of opportunities to coordinate state grant programs (e.g. AHSC, TCC) and for the development of recommendations for improving grant program alignment with sustainability goals. By January 31, 2022, Caltrans would provide an interim report to the Legislature on the new information to be included in the 2025 and subsequent CTPs. We are particularly supportive of the new requirement per AB 285 for a review of progress made implementing past CTPs.

¹ California Air Resources Board, *2018 Progress Report: California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act* https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/Final2018Report_SB150_112618_02_Report.pdf

We look forward to working with the author to further strengthen AB 285 to maximize the public health, environmental, and environmental justice benefits from the California Transportation Plan. Please vote “AYE” on AB 285 when it is heard in your committee, and ensure its passage to the Assembly Floor. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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Esther Rivera
State Policy Manager
California Walks

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CC: Assemblymember Friedman