

TA

CORRESPONDENCE

as of 12-13-2019

From: Adina Levin
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board@smcta.com)
Cc: [Epstein, Jessica](#)
Subject: Fwd: Final TA Strategic Plan Comment letter from TEAMC
Date: Thursday, December 05, 2019 6:02:18 PM
Attachments: [Final SMCTA Strategic Plan Comment Letter Dec 2019.pdf](#)

Also sending the TEAMC letter to the SMCTA board email address, in addition to individual members and staff.

- Adina

On Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 3:59 PM Chris Lepe <clepe@transformca.org> wrote:

Dear SMCTA Board members and staff,

We are writing to you as several organizations engaged with the Transportation Equity Allied Movement Coalition (TEAMC). We would like to thank the Board and staff for engaging us and other stakeholders to arrive at this stage of the Strategic Plan. Please see the attached comment letter for our final thoughts, concerns, and recommendations moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Chris Lepe

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Chris Lepe, Regional Policy Director

TransForm

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Dec 5, 2019

San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA)
1250 San Carlos Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
Via email

RE: Draft Measure W/A Strategic Plan

Dear Board of Directors and staff,

We are writing to you as several organizations engaged with the Transportation Equity Allied Movement Coalition (TEAMC). We would like to thank the Board and staff for engaging us and other stakeholders in the Strategic Plan process, and we would like to acknowledge the thoughtful letter that staff sent to us this week in response to our October comment letter. There are a number of positive elements in the Strategic Plan that we support and we have a few lingering concerns which we hope can be addressed as the Plan is implemented.

First, we would like to offer direct feedback to staff that relates to the last stage of this process. The Draft and Final Strategic Plans have been made available just a few working days before the SMCTA Board meetings where the Board has been asked to weigh in and make decisions.

In the future, we strongly encourage TA staff to make important documents like these available with more lead time so we as community-based organizations can appropriately respond to what is being proposed, especially those groups that are not resourced to be engaged directly in these kinds of processes. This is an important element of process equity and ensuring diverse and meaningful community input and buy-in.

There are many elements that we applaud in the comprehensive plan:

- The addition of technical assistance for multiple funding categories beyond highways,
- Accommodation of bike/ped bridges in the highway category, so these major investments serve all users and fix barriers,
- Funding for programs and education (not just capital projects), including Safe Routes to Schools programming, in the bicycle/pedestrian category,
- The inclusion of community engagement in the readiness criteria,
- Increasing the point allocation for Principle 11 throughout most of the categories,
- Specific inclusion of social equity metrics in several of the categories, and
- What we perceive to be an overall intent to focus on moving more people not more cars

There are also a few areas where progress has been made in regards to the point distribution in the Strategic Plan metrics but where we continue to have reservations.

- We appreciate the application of most of the Measure W Principles across each spending category and believe the point distribution between the performance-oriented metrics that relate directly to the Principles are quite fair. **There are a few examples, however, where certain Principles were not clearly incorporated under each**

Category, and we would have preferred that clear metrics be incorporated into each category relating directly to each Measure W Principle.

- **Because Measure W is a much more flexible and outcomes oriented measure, it merits a different approach and process from Measure A. We would have preferred a much greater weighting in the metrics section around the Measure W Principles rather than metrics that have little or nothing to do with performance or the Principles themselves.** Though we wanted the Readiness & Funding Leverage Criteria cut to 15% of the total points, we do appreciate the reduction by 5% across each funding category, making the point allocation slightly more focused on performance. Still, as an example with the Regional Transit Connections category, a full 41% of the points remain allocated for non-outcomes oriented considerations (Need and Readiness).

Finally, we would like to raise a few major remaining questions and concerns the Final Plan that were raised in our communications with TA staff and the Board in October in relation to the Draft Plan:

- **Our recommendation that a cost benefit analysis approach be applied for each category was not incorporated and thus creates uncertainty for us as to whether the projects that most effectively meet the multiple objectives set out by Measure W for every dollar spent will be prioritized.**
- **TA staff did not modify the 4% cap on Transportation Demand Management and Alternative Commute Programs within the Highway Category.** We believe TDM and alternative commute mode spending are likely to be among the most effective approaches in meeting the intent of Measure W within the Highway Category. Why would we prematurely limit such spending over the next several years? **We appreciate some of the rationale provided by staff, but we recommend that the TA establish a more specific timeline and commit to revisiting the 4% cap on TDM soon after the proposed Alternative Congestion Relief/TDM Plan is finalized, ideally within the next 2-3 years.** These details should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan for future reference by decision makers, staff, and the public.
- **We are very interested in obtaining greater clarity on what the process of evaluating projects and spending proposals will look like after the Plan is finalized and we would like to have input into the structure of the process.**
 - Transparency of selection committees: We would like to see a more transparent public process for selecting worthwhile applications for funding in the various categories. There should be some level of public input as to the makeup of the evaluation committees as well as publicizing the applications and final scores.
 - Composition and role of the POC: We would like more clarity on the role and makeup/selection of the Public Oversight Committee. How will the selection of members of the Public Oversight be made, and what are the key criteria that would be considered for selecting candidates?
 - Accountability: What are the mechanisms for accountability if jurisdictions or agencies don't comply with the intent of Measure W spending, especially in the local investment share? What checks and balances will be established in the use of return to source funds?

- Quality control: What kind of quality control will take place to ensure the data that is submitted by applicants to evaluate projects is consistent? Will there be a third party review or oversight of the data for projects submitted to the TA?
- **Lastly, the Final Strategic Plan leaves much to be desired in its level of commitment and specificity as it relates to the social equity section, and we would like clarification from staff and the Board regarding its commitment and objectives.** On pg. 48, there is a very short section on Geographic and Social Equity that states: “The Measure A and Measure W programs are countywide efforts that should take into consideration a relative equitable distribution of investments to help ensure all areas of the County, and all socioeconomic groups within it, receive a proportionate share of the transportation benefits and that no area is disproportionately adversely impacted.” If all areas of the county and populations receive a proportional share of benefits, that is not achieving equity, it is reinforcing the status-quo which is currently inequitable. We recommend strengthening the equity section commitment by the TA beyond the status-quo. For reference, see the Contra Costa TA’s 2019 TEP:
 - On pg. 3 the CCTA states that it “will prioritize social equity and provide better mobility options for all, **especially for those with the greatest transportation barriers such as youth, seniors, people of lower incomes, and people with disabilities.**” and on pg. 12 it states that it will ensure “**proportionally greater benefits to Communities of Concern and low-income residents.**”¹

We eagerly await the opportunity to discuss these important details with staff and the Board as the Strategic Plan is implemented to deliver the kind of visionary performance oriented spending intended by the measure’s Guiding Principles. Please follow up with us for clarification of the comments and recommendations in this letter.

Thank you for your consideration,

¹ https://ccta.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CCTA_TEP_Draft24_final_090419_lowres.pdf



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From: Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board (@smcta.com))
Subject: Safe Routes to School Newsletter Dec19/Jan20
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 11:26:48 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



San Mateo County **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Healthy Kids • Green Communities • Safe Journeys

Dec 2019/Jan 2020

Winter is upon us! We hope you all are keeping safe during this stormy season. Check out our Newsletter Spotlight below! It's a new feature highlighting the work of schools and individuals in the Safe Routes to School Community.

Martin Elementary Safety Patrol

About 10 years ago, Mrs. Carlino became the advisor for Martin Elementary's Safety Patrol in South San Francisco. She started with only 10 students who saw Safety Patrol as an opportunity to get out of class early. Awarded the 2018-2019 National Advisor of the Year Award by AAA, Mrs. Carlino has turned Safety Patrol into a safe space for students to grow and become strong leaders.

[Click here](#) to learn how being a part of the Safety Patrol has impacted students at Martin and how you can improve/grow your school's Safety Patrol.

If you have any further questions or need help with your program, feel free to contact the following:

AAA

Auto Club Enterprises schoolsafetypatrol@national.aaa.com

AAA Mountain West Group anya.cherneff@norcal.aaa.com

Mrs. Carlino - Martin Elementary Safety Patrol Advisor

dcarlino@ssfusd.org



Waymo (Google Self-Driving Car Project) invited Martin Elementary's Safety Patrol to participate and observe in their closed course facility. Video by Let's Talk Self-Driving.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day November 14, 2019

Thank you to all the schools that participated in Ruby Bridges Walk to School day! It is not only a day to encourage students to walk to school, but to commemorate what Ruby Bridges' courage in standing up for the rights of student education for all. Her bravery in showing up for school everyday, despite the blatant racism she faced, has allowed for all children to attend school.



Photo from NBC Bay Area

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (RBWTSD) was created in 2018 after 5th grade students from Martin Elementary School learned about [Ruby's](#) courage and wanted to honor her bravery. In 2018, 14 schools across the county participated. This year, over 25 schools participated. Next year, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership will help promote RBWTSD through social media.

[Click here to check out the news coverage on the event.](#)



Inspired by Martin Elementary, Menlo Park Mayor Pro Tem Cecilia Taylor and Jen Wolosin from [Parents for Safe Routes](#) honored Ruby Bridges' courage in their community. They hosted an event with Beechwood and Belle Haven Elementary Schools in East Menlo Park.

[Click here to check out the news coverage.](#)

Winter Safety Flyers

We hope you all are keeping dry this rainy season and are extra aware when walking, rolling, or driving. The days are getting darker and colder! Here are some tips on how to stay comfortable and safe this winter! Feel free to [download the PDF](#) to share with your students.

Winter Safety Tips

Pedestrian and Bike Safety

- Look and listen for traffic in all directions. Keep looking while crossing the street.
- Be cautious when crossing driveways and alley entrances
- Always cross at crosswalks, not between parked cars
- Make sure you are seen by:
 - Making eye contact with drivers when crossing streets
 - Wearing bright/reflective clothes
 - Carrying a flashlight when walking in the dark

Travel Comfortably

1st Layer: A Light shirt, preferably made of synthetic material

2nd layer: Insulation - a fleece, flannel, sweatshirt, or jacket to keep body heat in.

3rd Layer: Wind and rain protection with a light waterproof or water resistant jacket.

4th Layer: Hats and gloves will protect your ears and hands from crisp winter mornings.

Consejos de Seguridad Para el Invierno

Seguridad Para Peatones y Bicicletas

- Mire y escuche el tráfico en todas direcciones. Cuando cruza la calle, continúe a mirar para los coches.
- Ten cuidado cuando cruza las entradas y los callejones
- Siempre cruce en los pasos de peatones y no camine entre carros estacionados para cruzar la calle
- Asegúrese de que le vean:
 - Haga contacto visual con los conductores cuando cruza la calle.
 - Lleve ropa con los colores brillante / reflectante
 - Lleve una linterna cuando camina en la noche

Viaja Cómodamente

1ª capa: Una camisa ligera, preferiblemente una hecha de material sintético.

2ª capa: La insulación - una chaqueta polar, un abrigo de franela o un suéter para conservar el calor corporal.

3ª capa: Protéjase del viento y la lluvia con una chaqueta impermeable. Escoja un color brillante para aumentar la visibilidad.

4ª capa: Protéjase las orejas y las manos de las mañanas frías y despejadas con los gorros y los guantes.

Silicon Valley Bike Coalition Advocacy Training

December 18, 2019

6PM-8PM

at the Redwood City Downtown Library Branch

Come learn how you can [advocate for better biking in your community!](#)

Want to learn how to advocate for better biking in your community? Come to SVBC advocacy training!

SVBC ADVOCACY TRAINING



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
REDWOOD CITY DOWNTOWN LIBRARY BRANCH

LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR
DREAM BIKE ADVOCACY PROJECT
OFF THE GROUND!

This will be a general advocacy overview - how bike projects get done, where to go for information. We will also cover Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition initiatives and other advocacy basics such as who to contact when issues arise and how to be an active and engaged citizens. **The meeting space is provided as a community service by the City of Redwood City. The City neither sponsors nor endorses this event nor the presenting individual or organizations.**

REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/33LOoW5>



Safe Routes to School Workshop Series

Leveraging Community Resources for Safe Routes to School

Where: Woodrow Wilson Elementary

When: 2-4PM January 15, 2020

Audience: School Personnel, Community Partners, and
City Officials

Join us for our first workshop of the series! The **CA Active Transportation Resource Center** will be leading a talk on how to engage with other community businesses for your **Safe Routes to School Program**. You won't wanna miss this!



Safe Routes to School Workshop Series Leveraging Community Resources for SRTS

January 15, 2020

2PM-4PM

at Woodrow Wilson Elementary

Join us for the first workshop in the Safe Routes to School Workshop Series! Learn how to better engage with community businesses for your Safe Routes to School Program. This workshop will be led by the CA Active Transportation Resource Center.

Unable to make this workshop? [Check out our other upcoming workshops!](#)

Safe Routes to School Workshop Series

SVBC Advocacy Training

Learn how to advocate for better biking in your community!
Click here for the Eventbrite.

When: 6-8PM December 18, 2019

Where: Redwood City Downtown Library Branch

Leveraging Community Resource for SRTS

Led by CA Active Transportation Resource Center

When: 2-4PM January 15, 2020

Where: Woodrow Wilson

Applying for SRTS Infrastructure Funding

Led by Alta Planning

When: 9-11AM February 5, 2020

Where: TBD



SMCOE School Grants: Call for Applications

Supported by Alta Planning and Silicon Valley Bike Coalition

When: April TBD

Where: TBD

Parent SRTS Champions: Getting Ready for Bike Month

Led by Alta Planning and Silicon Valley Bike Coalition

When: April TBD

Where: TBD

Community Bike Audit

Supported by Alta Planning and Silicon Valley Bike Coalition

When: TBD

Where: TBD

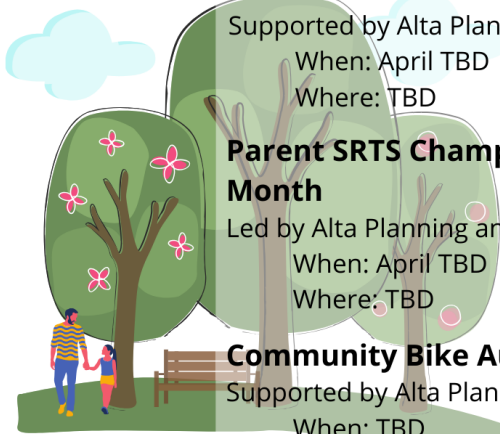




Photo by David Delgado/Reuters.

Kids Raised in Walkable Cities Earn More Money as Adults

Walkable Neighborhoods are very beneficial to the people who live in those areas. They are more active, healthier, spend more time with family and friends, and reported having higher levels of happiness and subjective well-being. A new study, published in the *American Psychologist*, found that children living in walkable neighborhoods have higher levels of upward economic mobility. In the study, they measured the effect of walkability in light of school quality, income equality, race, social capital, and the share of families with single parents. Children growing up in walkable neighborhoods fare better economically due to a wide range of economic factors including the characteristics of those types of neighborhoods.

[Find out more information about the study by checking out the article.](#)

YES Conference 2020
March 28, 2020
9AM-3PM
at El Camino High School in South San Francisco

The Youth for Environment and Sustainability Conference, also known as YES, are looking for speakers. If you are interested, please click the link to [submit a proposal](#). The deadline to submit proposals is Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

[Click here to learn more about the conference!](#)

YES Youth for the Environment & Sustainability

CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020, 9AM-3PM

El Camino High School, 1320 Mission Rd.

South San Francisco (across from SSF BART station)

Registration, call for speakers, information at
sparetheairyouth.org



Join us! Take action for OUR future

- Share ideas, solutions and projects
- Organize for climate action!
- Enjoy free food and giveaways
- Make new friends & have fun!

The Conference is open to middle school and high school students from the nine Bay Area counties
Alameda · Contra Costa · Marin · Napa · San Francisco · San Mateo · Santa Clara · Solano · Sonoma

This is a free event. Students are required to have their parents' permission to attend. The YES Conference is sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The Spare the Air Youth Program is a joint-program of the Air District and MTC.





REIMAGINE SAMTRANS



Photo from Reimagine SamTrans

Reimagine SamTrans Survey

SamTrans launched *Reimagine SamTrans*, a transformative study that will examine each route in the SamTrans bus system in light of changing travel patterns. *Reimagine SamTrans* will consider everything from customer experience, to route design, to how often buses run, to efficient and effective operations and practice. SamTrans needs your feedback on this critical effort!

Take the Reimagine Survey: Whether you ride the bus, drive, walk, bike or other we want to hear from you. Share your vision for a future SamTrans network.

Visit <https://www.reimaginesamtrans.com/survey> to take this fun short survey. Survey closes December 31, 2019.

Share your feedback in-person: SamTrans staff are in the field at bus stops, farmers markets and community meetings. A full list of events is available on the website and if you miss them in-person, you can always leave a comment. To learn more about the project and events go to www.reimaginesamtrans.com.



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