

TA

CORRESPONDENCE

as of 10-05-2023

From: [Mike Swire](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Request to pull/debate Item 5.e - Resolution on 101/Managed Lanes North of 380
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 2:27:53 PM

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Dear TA Board,

Thank you for your service to the people of SM County.

I am writing to request that the Board pull Item 5.e - Resolution in Support of the Managed Lanes Project North of 380 - from the Consent Calendar tonight so that it may be properly debated and considered. The potential widening of Highway 101 is a controversial subject and thus deserves to be discussed in depth. On Tuesday, the same motion failed before the SMCTA Citizen Advisory Committee, which serves as the liaison between the public and the TA Board.

Thank you for helping provide the public additional insight into the process by which major transportation decisions are made in SM County.

Sincerely,

Mike Swire
Member of SMCTA Citizen Advisory Committee (speaking as an individual, not representing the Committee)

From: [Max Mautner](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item 5.e - 101 Widening Project
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:30:43 PM

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I am a San Mateo resident and wish to express my strong objections to expending \$300M towards highway widening of 101.

This has already been done in the city of San Mateo which effectively torpedoed pedestrian/bike bridge projects across 101 by massively increasing project costs for connecting residents' mobility by any means other than car.

I would be horrified if the county continued to do the same to community's further north.

Please stop highway-widening and invest these funds into non-car alternatives—ideally pedestrian and micro mobility infrastructure to enable a healthier, more environmentally sustainable community for all residents in the county.

-Max Mautner

From: [Adam Buchbinder](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Please pull item 5.e from consent.
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:07:09 PM

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Item 5.e is a highway widening under another name. Please at least discuss the item before passing it through. Widening highways doesn't speed up traffic, and worsens pollution. Just one more lane won't fix it.

Thank you,
Adam Buchbinder

From: [Robert Whitehair](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Agenda 5.e - 101 Widening Project
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 11:21:37 AM

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Honorable Board Members,

Please do not approve the widening of 101 north of 380

I was public works Director in San Bruno from 1981 to 1988. The City heard many proposals for widening 101, all of which were constructed since that time.

We were told in so many CalTrans studies that widening would lead to reduced congestion, but this has not been true as we all know.

Building lanes only results in more cars. We have had enough of that. We are living foolishly if we are committed to turning around the climate crisis when all we do is create opportunities for more cars.

Please do not accept the available money. Ask for it to be redirected to transit, bike, and similar improvements.

Thank you

Robert Whitehair, San Mateo
Member, Elders Climate Action
co-leader, San Mateo Climate Action Team

From: [Michelle Hudson](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comment on Agenda item 5.e - 101 Widening Project
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 10:23:55 AM

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Hi - I am a long time resident of San Mateo, writing to you regarding Agenda item 5.e - 101 widening project.

SMCTA should amend the resolution, indicating that it will only consider funding the Managed Lanes project if the widening option is off the table.

Highway widening does not reduce congestion. It simply induces more traffic and increases the number of cars on the road.

Transportation is responsible for 60% of GHG emissions in SM County and 101 is its busiest road. It is climate catastrophe to invite more cars on the road by widening 101.

Air pollution levels are higher in neighborhoods adjacent to the highway, which are disproportionately low income and/or people of color. Widening 101 will increase childhood asthma in these communities. This issue is near and dear to me as both my children suffer from asthma.

More cars on the 101 means more cars driving through the communities adjacent to the highway. This will exacerbate the disproportionately high rates of traffic violence that impact people of color.

Making it easier for people to drive will hurt Caltrain and BART revenues at a precarious time, as they teeter on a financial cliff. Ridership remains low since the completion of the 101 widening in the southern part of SM County.

The widening option will cost an extra \$300MM vs. alternatives. We are better off spending this money on transit or bike/ped safety infrastructure, instead of making it easier for people to drive.

The public believes that highway widening is not money well spent and that it doesn't reduce congestion - [national survey](#), [local poll](#)

Please act in the best interest of our communities and future generations: do not allow for more GHG emissions and air pollution that are disastrous to the climate and public (especially children's) health. Please implement the above-referenced alternatives that are far more beneficial to our community.

Thank you,
Michelle Hudson
Resident of San Mateo

From: [Gladwyn D'Souza](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [publiccomments@smcta.com](#)
Subject: Amend resolution to remove widening.
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 9:47:03 AM

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Dear board,

- While the widening option has yet to be selected, SMCTA should amend the resolution, indicating that it will only consider funding the Managed Lanes project if the widening option is off the table.
- Highway widening does not reduce congestion. It simply induces more traffic and increases the number of cars on the road. To reduce congestion build low income affordable housing in the transit corridor as recommended by CAPCOA. [CAPCOA lists density](#) as the number one mitigation measure for vehicle miles travelled which is [increasing in the county according to MTC](#). [UC Davis says](#), "[New capacity that reduces travel times leads to VMT growth](#)" and thus more congestion.

Regards,
Gladwyn d'Souza
1473 Sixth Ave, Belmont, CA, 94002

From: [Jennifer](#)
To: [Public Comment; Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Comment on Agenda item 5.e- 101 Widening Project
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 10:55:50 PM

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Please take all freeway widening alternatives off of the table for the managed lanes project north of I-380. While managed lanes are a good thing, widening the freeway to make them is completely counterproductive. According to the VMT calculator recommended by Caltrans' [environmental impact analysis framework](#), adding a lane, even a managed one, will induce more demand and significantly *increase* the very congestion that the project is trying to reduce. This would not only be a waste of money and resources, it would be active sabotage of the region's goals for sustainability and congestion management.

Thank you for your consideration
--Jennifer Garstang
South San Francisco resident

From: [Elaine Salinger](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board (@smcta.com))
Subject: Agenda item 5.e - 101 Widening Project
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 10:44:04 PM

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Please vote AGAINST 101 widening for the following reasons:

Numerous studies show that highway widening does not reduce congestion. It simply induces more traffic and increases the number of cars on the road.

More cars on the 101 means more cars driving through the diverse, low income communities adjacent to the highway. This will exacerbate the disproportionately high rates of traffic violence that impact people of color.

Air pollution levels are higher in neighborhoods adjacent to the highway, which are disproportionately low income and/or people of color. Widening 101 will increase childhood asthma in these communities.

Please use this infrastructure money for creating protected bike lanes and funding alternative modes of transportation. This will reduce traffic and reduce our GHG emissions.

Elaine Salinger, San Mateo County Chapter Co-Leader

650-533-3539



From: [Doug Bojack](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item 5.e.
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 1:33:35 PM

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Good evening, Board of Directors,

I am a member of the Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee. We met two days ago to review your agenda and provide comments to TA staff. We pulled item 5.e. from your agenda for further discussion based on the fact that the managed lane project team is currently considering adding an additional lane north of I-380 to provide the entire US 101 corridor within San Mateo County with managed lane access for transit and carpoolers. It was important to us, your constituents, that the TA does not fund this project if it results in highway widening. As a result, we voted not to endorse this item of your consent calendar.

The data are unequivocal: adding highway lane-miles results in induced demand and increases vehicle miles traveled. Increasing the number of vehicles on the road would counteract progress the county and local jurisdictions are making on climate mitigation. Indeed, transportation emissions are already the county's largest single source of greenhouse gas pollution, and reducing them through highway investments that singularly focus on converting an existing lane to a managed lane to prioritize carpooling and transit must be the way the TA assists in addressing climate change.

It is my hope that you as the TA Board will exercise leadership and pull this item from the consent calendar yourselves and add a provision to the resolution that directs staff to abandon developing the widening of Highway 101 as a preferred alternative and not to delegate authority to pursue the design phase of any highway widening.

Thank you,

Doug Bojack