

Transportation Committee and Regional Council
List of Public Comments
 Received before 5pm on Wednesday, June 5, 2024

	Date	Sender Name	Organization	Agenda Item (AI #)	Subject Matter
1.	06/05/2024	Kirsten Bladh	Citizen of the SCAG Region	TC AI #10 – 2023-2026 CRP-CMAQ-STBG Project Selection and Award Recommendations RC AI #2 – 2023-2026 CRP-CMAQ-STBG Project Selection and Award Recommendations	Urging the committee to reject approval of the item.

Action Item 10: 2023-2026 CRP-CMAQ-STBG Project Selection and Award Recommendations

Kirsten Bladh <kirstenbladh@gmail.com>

Wed 2024-06-05 12:42 PM

To:TC Public Comment Group <TCpubliccomment@scag.ca.gov>;ePublic Comment Group <ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov>

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Regarding Action Item 10: 2023-2026 CRP-CMAQ-STBG Project Selection and Award Recommendations

Dear Members of the SCAG Transportation Committee,

According to the California Air Resources Board's most recent report on the progress of the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, SCAG, along with all other MPOs in the state, are utterly failing in their commitment to decrease VMT and GHG. In fact, according to the report, per capita GHG emissions and per capita VMT actually *increased* in the SCAG region since the Act was implemented.

And the report explains exactly *why* SCAG is failing. It's because of decisions like the one you are about to make on June 6th— the decision to continue approving funding for freeway and roadway widenings.

The project receiving the most money on the list of CMAQ-STBG grant awardees is one such freeway widening. You are proposing to give \$22 million to a freeway widening, in one of the most polluted and disadvantaged census tracts in the entire state, that isn't even a full mile.

That length, just under a mile, was of course intentional, as it allows the project to exploit a loophole exempting projects under a mile from VMT analysis and full environmental review. So by approving funding for this project, you are not only inducing more driving and more pollution, you are also enabling and rewarding the abuse of our state's environmental laws.

And with the amount of money that you are giving to a 0.9-mile freeway widening in a disadvantaged community, you could fund safety improvement projects for 350 schools, such as the Laurel Elementary School Safety Project that was relegated to the contingency list.

In fact, with the amount of money that you are awarding to this freeway widening, you could fund the first six projects on the contingency list, all of which were Highly Recommended.

I urge you to reject the approval of the wasteful and destructive widening of the 91 freeway. Let's only invest in projects that truly benefit our communities and uphold our environmental commitments.

Thank you,

Kirsten Bladh
Citizen of the SCAG Region