



# Solano Transportation Authority 2019 Legislative Platform

Adopted February 13, 2019



## PROJECTS AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

Pursue (and seek funding for) the following priority projects:

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### Roadway/Highway:

#### I-80 Corridor Freight and Mobility Improvements

- I-80 Express Lanes – Red Top Rd to I-505
- I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange
- I-80 Westbound Truck Scales
- I-80 Express Lanes (SR 37 to Carquinez Bridge)
- SR 37 Corridor Improvements
  - Segment B and /Mare Island Interchange
  - Flood Protection and Adaptation Improvements for Segments B & C
- Vaca Valley Parkway

#### Access to Federal Facility (Travis Air Force Base)

- Jepson Parkway Segment 2C(Canon Road to Vacaville City Limits) and North Gate Entrance

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### Transit Centers:

#### Priority Tier 1:

- Fairfield-Vacaville Train Station, (building/solar panels/electric vehicle charging stations, and complete parking)
- Vallejo Station Parking Structure Phase B
- SolanoExpress Bus capitol to expand service plan
- Fairfield Transportation Center Expansion – Westbound bus station

#### Priority Tier 2:

- Parkway Blvd. Overcrossing / Dixon Intermodal Station
- Vallejo Mare Island Strait Dredging

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### Programs:

Active Transportation (bike, ped, SR2S, PDA, PCA)  
Climate Change Adaptation/Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure  
Mobility Management  
Safe Routes to School  
Safe Routes to Transit

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## LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

1. Support efforts to protect and ensure efficient, effective implementation of the various SB 1 transportation funding programs.
2. Ensure that new bridge tolls are dedicated to improve operations and mobility in Solano County. (Specifically: I-80 Express Lanes, I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, I-80 Westbound Truck Scales, SR 37/Mare Island Interchange, Intercity bus facilities, additional operating funds for SolanoExpress, and additional operating funds and capital improvements for the Vallejo segment of the SF Bay Ferry operated by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA).
3. Seek grant funding through SB 1 competitive programs for:
  - I-80 Express Lanes (Solutions for Congested Corridors and Trade Corridor Enhancement Program)
  - I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange () and I-80 Westbound Truck Scales (Trade Corridors Enhancement)
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4. Seek grant funding through Cap and Trade competitive Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program (TIRCP) for:
  - Fairfield-Vacaville Train Station (station building, solar panels and charging stations; and
  - SolanoExpress Electrification, Capital and Operation Improvements
5. Support efforts by the SR 37 Policy Committee (County Transportation Authorities of Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties) to develop an expedited funding, financing and project implementation strategy for the reconstruction of SR 37 and provide flood protection to withstand rising seas and storm surges, while improving mobility and safety along the route.
6. Oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding from transportation projects.
7. Support initiatives to pursue the 55% voter threshold for local transportation infrastructure measures.
8. Monitor/support/seek/sponsor, as appropriate, legislative proposals in support of initiatives that increase funding for transportation infrastructure, operations and maintenance in Solano County.
9. Monitor and participate in the implementation of state housing and jobs production and climate change legislation that impacts transportation funding, planning and projects. This includes SB2: Building Jobs and Homes Act, Executive Order S-3-05 and subsequent Executive Orders, SB 375 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act), and agency regulations such as the Housing and Community Development Department and California Air Resources Board (CARB) greenhouse gas reduction target setting.
10. Continue to participate in the development and implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), known as Plan Bay Area, including on-going funding of investment in Priority Development Areas (PDAs), Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs), and future Priority Production Areas (PPAs).

11. Support implementation of the Capitol Corridor Strategic Plan and State Rail Plan, including:
  - Implementation of Solano County as a regional rail hub
  - Support designation of an Amtrak rail station in Solano County
12. Support efforts to protect and preserve funding in the Public Transportation Account (PTA).
13. Support efforts to ensure Solano receives fair share of federal transportation funding from state and region.
14. Support implementation of national, state and regional freight plans that include construction of the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, I-80 Westbound Truck Scales and SR 12 East improvements, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) deployment.
15. Monitor implementation of the National Freight Program and the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program to ensure that funds are distributed to projects that are the most critical to the safe movement of freight.
16. Support laws and policies that expedite project delivery.
17. Support establishment and operation of regional Express Lanes network that includes I-80 in Solano County and connects the Bay Area region to Sacramento.
18. Support “fix it first” efforts that prioritize a large portion of our scarce federal and state resources on maintaining, rehabilitating and operating Solano County’s aging transportation infrastructure over expansion.
19. Advocate for continued Solano County representation on the WETA Board. Concurrently seek sponsorship for and support legislation specifying that Solano County will have a statutorily-designated representative on the WETA Board.
20. Support legislation that encourages public private partnerships and provides low cost financing for transportation projects and programs.
21. To create consistency in the application of Federal regulations (i.e. ADA), advocate for the establishment of a Federal definition establishing the threshold between maintenance and improvement in paving as “more than one-inch.” This would mirror the threshold used in the State of California Streets for roads.

### I. Active Transportation/Land Use

1. Promote, implement and expand active transportation and land use planning, facilities and programs (such as Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Transit) to support pedestrian, bicycle and multimodal use in Solano County.
2. Support legislation that provides adequate, dedicated funding for the development of transportation projects that support affordable housing and housing, and employment areas in Transit Priority Development (TPD) locations and Priority Development Areas (PDAs).
3. Support legislation that provides adequate, dedicated funding for the development of transportation projects that support employment and jobs in Solano County.
4. Support legislation and regional policy that provides qualified Commuter Carpools and Vanpools with incentives to encourage and promote ridesharing.
5. Promote innovative programs to fill commuter first/last mile gaps and Safe Routes to Transit.
6. Support legislation that increases employers' opportunities to offer commuter incentives.
7. Support legislative and regulatory efforts to ensure that projects from Solano County cities are eligible for federal, state and regional funding of TOD projects. Ensure that development and transit standards for TOD projects can be reasonably met by suburban communities.
8. Recognize housing affordability at the regional context and support funding programs that link transportation investment to STA's future Housing Incentive Program.

### II. Climate Change/Air Quality

1. Monitor implementation of federal attainment plans for pollutants in the Bay Area and Sacramento air basins, including ozone and particulate matter attainment plans. Work with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to ensure consistent review of projects in the two air basins.
2. Monitor and participate in the implementation of state climate change legislation. This includes Executive Order S-3-05 and subsequent Executive Orders, SB 375 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act), and agency regulations such as the California Air Resources Board (CARB) greenhouse gas reduction target setting. Continue to participate in the development and implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), known as Plan Bay Area, including on-going funding of investment in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). (*Objective #9*)
3. Support legislation, which ensures that any fees imposed to reduce vehicle miles traveled, or to control mobile source emissions, are used to support transportation programs that provide congestion relief, benefit air quality or support climate change adaptation.

4. Support legislation and funding, which provides infrastructure for low, ultra-low and zero emission vehicles. Support SolanoExpress and Managed Lane Implementation Plan (MLIP)
5. Support policies that improve and streamline the environmental review process, including the establishment and use of mitigation banks and advanced mitigation programs.
6. Support legislation that allows for air emission standards appropriate for infill development linked to transit centers and/or in designated Priority Development Areas. Allow standards that tolerate higher levels of air pollutants in exchange for allowing development supported by transit that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Monitor energy policies and alternative fuel legislation or regulation that may affect fleet vehicle requirements for mandated use of alternative fuels.
8. Support legislation to provide funding for innovative, intelligent/advanced transportation and air quality programs, which relieve congestion, improve air quality and enhance economic development.
9. Support funding to finance cost effective conversion of public transit fleets and transit infrastructure to alternative fuels and/or to retrofit existing fleets with latest emission technologies to meet California Air Resources Board requirements.
10. Support income tax benefits or incentives that encourage use of alternative fuel vehicles, vanpools and public transit without reducing existing transportation or air quality funding levels.
11. Support federal climate change legislation that provides funding from, and any revenue generated by, emission dis-incentives or fuel tax increases (e.g. cap and trade programs) to local transportation agencies for transportation purposes.

### **III. Employee Relations**

1. Monitor legislation and regulations affecting labor relations, employee rights, benefits, and working conditions. Preserve a balance between the needs of the employees and the resources of public employers that have a legal fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers.
2. Monitor any legislation affecting workers compensation that impacts employee benefits, control of costs, and, in particular, changes that affect self-insured employers.
3. Monitor legislation affecting the liability of public entities, particularly in personal injury or other civil wrong legal actions.

### **IV. Environmental**

1. Monitor legislation and regulatory proposals related to management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, including those that would impact existing and proposed transportation facilities such as State Routes 12, 84 and 113.

2. Seek funding for vulnerability assessment, adaptation and projects implementation for sea-level rise, flood protection and climate change in relation to existing and proposed transportation facilities in Solano County, including State Route 37. *(Objective #5)*
3. Monitor proposals to designate new species as threatened or endangered under either the federal or state Endangered Species Acts. Monitor proposals to designate new “critical habitat” in areas that will impact existing and proposed transportation facilities.
4. Monitor the establishment of environmental impact mitigation banks to ensure that they do not restrict reasonably-foreseeable transportation improvements.
5. Monitor legislation and regulations that would impose requirements on highway construction to contain stormwater runoff.
6. Advocate for regulations that increase safety pertaining to the transport of volatile and hazardous materials.
7. Monitor implementation of the environmental streamlining provisions in FAST Act.
8. Support provisions in the FAST Act that further streamline the environmental review and permitting process.
9. Advocate for further streamlining of project delivery requirements to allow projects to advance quicker and more cost-effectively. *(Objective #16)*
10. Monitor legislation and regulatory proposals related to sustaining the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta (Estuary) in context of rising sea levels and ecosystems functions and potential effects on transportation facilities.

## **V. Water Transport**

1. Protect existing sources of operating and capital support for San Francisco Bay Ferry service operated by WETA which do not jeopardize transit operating funds for FAST, SolTrans, and SolanoExpress intercity bus operations, and include additional operating funds and capital improvements for the Vallejo segment of the SF Bay Ferry.
2. Support efforts to increase and expand levels of service directly between Vallejo and San Francisco as well as capacity improvements at the Vallejo Station that support the increased service of Ferry Operations as a result of RM3.
3. Seek funding opportunities for passenger and freight water transport operations and infrastructure.
4. Advocate for continued Solano County representation on the WETA Board. Concurrently seek sponsorship for and support legislation specifying that Solano County will have a statutorily-designated representative on the WETA Board. *(Objective #19)*
5. Support efforts to evaluate and implement water transit options between Solano and Marin counties where feasible as an alternative to driving on the SR 37 corridor
6. Support recommendations of the Water Transit Study

## VI. Funding

1. Support and protect SB 1 to assure a dedicated source of funding, other than the State Highway Account for local streets and roads maintenance/repairs, and transit operations.
2. Protect Solano County's statutory portions of state highway and transit funding programs.
3. Seek a fair share for Solano County of any federal and state discretionary funding made available for transportation grants, programs and projects.
4. Protect State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds from use for purposes other than those covered in SB 45 of 1997 (Chapter 622) reforming transportation planning and programming, and support timely allocation of new STIP funds.
5. Support state budget and California Transportation Commission allocation to fully fund projects for Solano County included in the State Transportation Improvement Program and the Comprehensive Transportation Plans of the county.
6. Support efforts to protect and preserve funding in the Public Transportation Account (PTA). (*Objective #12*)
7. Seek/sponsor legislation in support of initiatives that increase the overall funding levels for transportation priorities in Solano County.
8. Support legislation that encourages public private partnerships and provides low-cost financing for transportation projects in Solano County. (*Objective 20*)
9. Support legislation to secure adequate budget appropriations for highway, bus, rail, air quality and mobility programs in Solano County.
10. Support initiatives to pursue the 55% or lower voter threshold for local transportation infrastructure measures. Any provisions of the State to require a contribution for maintenance on a project included in a local measure must have a nexus to the project being funded by the measure. (*Objective #7*)
11. Seek funding for movement of goods via maritime-related transportation, including the dredging of channels, port locations and freight shipment.
12. Support implementation of national, state and regional freight plans that fund construction of the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, I-80 Westbound Truck Scales and SR 12 East improvements, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) deployment. (*Objective #14*)
13. Support legislation that provides funding that would allocate State ATP funds at the regional/county level by formula.

14. Ensure STA population-based funds (SB 1) continue to be distributed by formula to the county transportation authorities. *(Objective #1)*
15. Ensure that new bridge tolls are dedicated to improve operations and mobility in Solano County. (Specifically: I-80 Express Lanes, I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, I-80 Westbound Truck Scales, SR 37/Mare Island Interchange, Intercity bus facilities, additional operating funds for SolanoExpress, and additional operating funds and capital improvements for the Vallejo segment of the SF Bay Ferry operated by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA)).  
*(Objective #2)*
16. Oppose any proposal that could reduce Solano County's opportunity to receive transportation funds, including diversion of state transportation revenues for other purposes. Fund sources include, but are not limited to, State Highway Account (SHA), Public Transportation Account (PTA), and Transportation Development Act (TDA), SB 1, and any local ballot initiative raising transportation revenues. *(Objective #6)*
17. Support the authorized funding for the federal Rail Title accounts established in the FAST Act of 2015, for which the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) is an eligible applicant (CRISI, SOGR)
18. Support legislation allowing a county to create a sales tax district and/or transit district within its boundaries.

## **VII. Project Delivery**

1. Monitor implementation of FAST Act and MAP-21 provisions that would expedite project delivery.
2. Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to enhance Caltrans project delivery, such as simultaneous Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and engineering studies, design-build authority, and a reasonable level of contracting out of appropriate activities to the private sector.
3. Support legislation and/or administrative reforms that result in cost and/or time savings to environmental clearance processes for transportation projects.
4. Continue to streamline federal application/reporting/monitoring requirements to ensure efficiency and usefulness of data collected and eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements.
5. Support legislation that encourages public private partnerships and provides streamlined and economical delivery of transportation projects in Solano County.
6. Support legislation and/or administrative reforms that require federal and state regulatory agencies to adhere to their statutory deadlines for review and/or approval of environmental documents that have statutory funding deadlines for delivery, to ensure the timely delivery of projects funded with state and/or federal funds.



## **VIII. Rail**

1. In partnership with other counties located along Capitol Corridor, seek expanded state commitment for funding passenger rail service, whether state or locally administered.
2. Support legislation and/or budgetary actions to assure a fair share of State revenues of intercity rail (provided by Capitol Corridor) funding for Northern California and Solano County.
3. Support legislation to assure that dedicated state intercity rail funding is allocated to the regions administering each portion of the system and assure that funding is distributed on an equitable basis.
4. Support implementation of the new State Rail Plan, including making Solano County a regional rail hub, connecting the Capitol Corridor to the state high speed rail system, and exploring connection of the Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit system to Solano County.
5. Support legislation to adequately fund replacement of at-grade railroad crossings with grade-separated crossings.
6. Oppose legislation that would prohibit Amtrak from providing federal funds for any state-supported Intercity Passenger Rail corridor services.
7. Advocate for accelerated Positive Train Control implementation.

## **IX. Safety**

1. Monitor legislation or administrative procedures to streamline the process for local agencies to receive funds for road and levee repair and other flood protection.
2. Monitor continuation of the Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone designation on SR 12 from I-80 in Solano County to I-5 in San Joaquin County, as authorized by AB 112.
3. Support legislation to further fund Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Transit programs in Solano County.

## **X. Transit**

1. Protect funding levels for transit by opposing state funding source reduction without substitution of comparable revenue.
2. Support tax benefits and/or incentives for programs to promote use of shared mobility options.
3. In partnership with the affected agencies and local governments, seek additional strategies and funding of programs that benefit older adults, people with disabilities, students, youth, veterans and the economically disadvantaged such as intercity paratransit operations, mobility management and other community based programs.
4. Monitor efforts to change Federal requirements and regulations regarding the use of Federal transit funds for transit operations in rural, small and large Urbanized Areas (UZAs)
5. Work with MTC to generate new regional transit revenues to support the ongoing operating and capital needs of transit services, including bus, ferry and rail. (*Objective #2*)
6. Monitor implementation of requirements in MAP-21 and FAST Act for transit agencies to prepare asset management plans and undertake transportation planning.
7. Support the use of Cap and Trade funds for improved or expanded transit service.
8. Support funding of discretionary programs, including the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant, bus and bus facilities, Low or No Emissions, and ITS deployment.

## **XI. Movement of Goods**

1. Monitor and participate in implementation of national, state and regional freight plans that include construction of the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, I-80 Westbound Truck Scales and SR 12/Church Road improvements, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) deployment. (*Objective #14*)
2. Monitor and support initiatives that augment planning and funding for movement of goods via maritime-related transportation, including the dredging of channels, port locations and freight shipment.
3. Support efforts, including the use of dredging, to mitigate the impacts of additional maritime goods movement on surface transportation facilities.
4. Monitor and support initiatives that augment planning and funding for movement of goods via aviation, rail, and truck.
5. Monitor proposals to co-locate freight and/or passenger air facilities at Travis Air Force Base (TAFB), and to ensure that adequate highway and surface street access is provided if such facilities are located at TAFB.