

SolarCity

GET A QUOTE ▶

News

Events

Music

Movies

Places

Food

Beer

Search

"I FEEL LIKE I'M FORCED TO USE MY CAR."

San Diego Association of Governments loves them some freeway

By [Dave Rice](#), Jan. 26, 2016

NATIONAL CITY | NEWS TICKER



San Diego Quality of Life Coalition speaks up for a world-class transportation system

A group of environmentalists and labor organizations billing themselves as the San Diego Quality of Life Coalition rallied in National City yesterday (January 25), calling on the San Diego Association of Governments to focus on mass transit as the agency drafts a plan to raise sales taxes countywide to fund transportation development.

The association's current transit plan, funded by a half-cent sales tax, has **already received**

considerable criticism from environmentalists and advocates for low-income workers who say it promotes mostly freeway expansion while pushing improvements to light rail and pedestrian options to the back end of the plan's timespan, which runs through 2050.

Beginning today, the association of governments will conduct **a handful of outreach events**, including "telephone town hall" meetings, soliciting emailed comments and inviting public comment at board meetings on how spending should be prioritized before releasing a final proposal. Coalition members, however, already have suggestions.

The group focuses on several avenues of investment aside from transit development. These include funding the purchase of land for dedication to open-space preserves, spending on storm-drain upgrades to improve local water quality, and increasing affordable housing development along already-existing transit corridors. Priority investment areas, they say, should include low-income communities most affected by existing roadways and their attendant pollution, such as **Barrio Logan**.

"This is potentially an \$18 billion opportunity to invest in a socially and environmentally equitable manner," said Monique López, a policy advocate at Environmental Health Coalition. "The San Diego region cannot afford to spend new money on old ways of thinking."

"We want to partner with SANDAG, but only if their ballot initiative invests in clean air, better transit, safer streets and good jobs."

Jeanne Peterson, a La Mesa resident, addressed the media with complaints about the difficulties of using the city's patchwork public transit network.

"I've gotten my kids hooked on taking the trolley — they love it," Peterson says. "But going to a friend's house? We'd have to walk a half hour each way. An event in Point Loma? That's all but completely impossible."

"I feel like I'm forced to use my car. I'm a voter, and I'm really hoping SANDAG will address this and give us a world-class transit system."

 [Share / Tools](#)

MORE FROM SDREADER

More stories by Dave Rice

More criticism of county transportation plan — Oct. 5, 2015

SD climate plan moving backward or forward? — Sept. 24, 2015

More bikeways or more highways? — May 16, 2015

Transit plan includes more air pollution — Nov. 7, 2012

IKEA by Bus — May 26, 2010

COMMENTS

3 Comments

Sort by





Add a comment...



Victoria Swift · Research Analyst at University of San Diego

No thanks. My weekly budget is stretched too thin as is to subsidize a half cent sales tax on EVERYTHING I purchase. If you REALLY want to help the low-income don't tax their living expenses to fund this project, find your money elsewhere.

Like · Reply · 3 · Jan 26, 2016 1:14pm



John Stump · Works at Self employed and semi retired

No more taxes!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=g0ahJPxfGp4>

Like · Reply · Jan 28, 2016 12:39am



John Stump · Works at Self employed and semi retired

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=g0ahJPxfGp4>

Like · Reply · Jan 28, 2016 12:39am

Facebook Comments Plugin

SDweather

Jan. 26, 2016 @ 9:28 a.m.

<http://www.straightdope.com/columns/read/551/did-general-motors-destroy-the-la-mass-transit-system>

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

AlexClarke

Jan. 27, 2016 @ 6:01 a.m.

For any mass transit to work the city must be designed around it. San Diego was developed around the automobile. Now it is almost impossible to build a mass transit infrastructure to move people from where they live to where they work. Trolley and bus service is great if you live near a trolley/bus station and work near a trolley/bus station and that you don't work on weekends or nights. It takes hours to travel around San Diego on the transit system and it involves many transfers. It is ridiculous that the IBEW is shown supporting this nonsense. Most electricians need to be able to go from job to job with equipment and tools and could never use a transit system to do their job. Even now you need a car to get to a trolley station.

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

danfogel

Jan. 27, 2016 @ 7:56 a.m.

alexclarke Have you ever visited San Francisco, New York, London or Paris??

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

AlexClarke

Jan. 27, 2016 @ 11:54 a.m.

They were designed around people. Even though London and Paris are old cities they did not give in to urban sprawl. They have efficient mass transit because they were originally designed with people in mind. San Diego was planned by developers and bought-and-paid-for politicians who were only representing the construction industry and real estate interests. There was never a thought about people using a transit system to get anywhere. Even when there was a trolley it was discontinued because the developers wanted to expand outward.

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

danfogel

Jan. 27, 2016 @ 9:03 p.m.

alexclark You said "For any mass transit to work the city must be designed around it" San Francisco, New York and especially London and Paris were NOT designed around mass transit and I know from personal experience that their public transportation systems are among the best in the world. Thanx for agreeing with me.

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

ronh

Jan. 27, 2016 @ 8:07 a.m.

Walk a half hour? Both ways? Oh, the humanity!

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

Wabbit

Jan. 27, 2016 @ 4:35 p.m.

That's what I thought, too. I guess she doesn't bike, either.

[Sign in to reply](#)

[Sign in to suggest removal](#)

Log in to comment

Username:

Password:

Log in

[Forgotten your password?](#)

Search

News

Events

Music

Movies

Food

© 2016 San Diego Reader

[Desktop site](#)

