

INVESTING
in **PLACE**



May 18, 2015

Francis M. Delach,
Executive Director
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Unit 42; Bldg A-10N, Suite 10-210
Alhambra, CA 91803

**Re: Recommended Programming of Revenues from Proposed Transportation
Ballot Measure**

Dear Mr. Delach and members of the Transportation Committee and Governing Board:

We commend you and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for demonstrating leadership in developing the Mobility Matrix. As San Gabriel Valley identifies its transportation needs for a potential 2016 ballot measure, Investing in Place, the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, and California Walks support additional study to determine what resources are needed to ensure San Gabriel Valley residents get the transportation infrastructure they deserve, particularly for first/last mile, safe routes to school, walking and bicycling investments.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership and the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition published a report in January 2015 titled, "Best Practices for Funding Active Transportation with County Transportation Sales Taxes." This report identified over \$20 billion in unmet need for active transportation funding in Los Angeles County, largely due to historical underfunding. Based on best practices from other California counties, the report recommended that at least 10 percent of any future sales tax revenue be dedicated to walking, bicycling and safe routes to school. We seek to implement this recommended allocation across each of Los Angeles County's subregional investment priorities.

The proposed funding allocation of \$69 million to active transportation will fall short of achieving this benchmark set by other California counties and is inadequate to fund safe routes to school, pedestrian improvements and regional bikeways. For example, just implementing the approved San Gabriel Valley Regional Bicycle Master Plan and the Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan, which call for transforming over 100-miles of County-owned flood control channels into a viable network of Class I bike paths in the San Gabriel Valley, would exceed the proposed allocation for active transportation—without consideration for walking and local bicycle trips. Based on existing facilities, the Department of Public Works estimates an average cost of at least \$1 million per mile. After the Metrolink Enhancement Program, the Active Transportation Program has the highest documented benefit in the Mobility Matrix. Given the limited funding that is allocated at the federal level—compared to commuter rail, goods movement and highways—it is incumbent upon local governments to secure adequate funding for

walking, bicycling and safe routes to school. As such, we support our partners' recommendation of allocating at least \$100 million to the Active Transportation Program.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jessica Meaney
Managing Director
Investing in Place

Eric Bruins
Planning & Policy Director
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Caro Jauregui
Southern California Policy Manager
California Walks