

**To: John Cunningham, Lara DeLaney**

**From: Stephen Kowalewski**

**Date: 10/15/24**

**Subject: Request for Legislative Platform Addition: **Active Transportation Funding that Integrates on-going Maintenance Support****

**Overview:**

Contra Costa County, like many local jurisdictions, faces a persistent challenge with state and federal funding programs that prioritize capital improvements while neglecting ongoing maintenance needs. Although capital funding enables the expansion of active transportation networks, these new facilities inevitably add to the County's maintenance burden, straining local resources. To address this, I propose **a legislative platform request to advocate for a balanced approach to funding, where any active transportation capital improvement program must be accompanied by a complementary program specifically addressing the ongoing maintenance needs of these new assets.**

**Proposal:**

The County should advocate for legislative changes that ensure any funding program supporting active transportation capital improvements also includes provisions for a supporting program dedicated to maintenance. This could mean requiring that at least 50% of the overall funding be eligible for maintenance of new facilities or that a separate maintenance fund be created in tandem with each capital funding program.

**Rationale and Benefits:**

**1. Mitigate the Impact of New Facilities on Local Maintenance Budgets**

- New active transportation facilities increase maintenance obligations, which, without dedicated funding, fall entirely on local budgets. By pairing capital improvement funds with a maintenance component, the County can prevent the accumulation of unfunded maintenance liabilities and ensure long-term quality and safety for users.

**2. Ensure Safe and Reliable Active Transportation Infrastructure**

- Maintenance is essential to preserving the safety, accessibility, and usability of active transportation facilities. A balanced funding approach that includes both capital and maintenance support will allow for routine upkeep, reducing risks of accidents and enhancing public confidence in these options.

**3. Promote Sustainable Investment and Financial Stewardship**

- Facilities that receive regular maintenance have a longer lifespan and lower overall costs, as issues can be addressed before they escalate into major repairs. Including a maintenance fund with each capital improvement program helps protect public investment, ensuring active transportation infrastructure remains beneficial for years to come.

**4. Facilitate Proactive Financial Planning**

- With dedicated maintenance funds, the County can better manage resources and avoid unexpected costs. This approach enables more strategic financial planning and allows local funds to be allocated to other essential community needs.

### **Implementation Strategy:**

To advocate for the inclusion of maintenance in active transportation funding programs, the County can pursue the following actions:

- **Propose Legislative Amendments:** Advocate for amendments to state and federal active transportation programs, such as the California Active Transportation Program (ATP), to require that any capital funding be matched with maintenance support.
- **Encourage Development of a Separate Maintenance Fund:** Support the creation of complementary maintenance funding programs for each capital improvement program, ensuring that maintenance needs are recognized and funded alongside new infrastructure projects.
- **Build a Broad-Based Advocacy Coalition:** Collaborate with other counties, cities, and transportation agencies to demonstrate the widespread need for such funding reforms and to strengthen our advocacy position.

### **Conclusion:**

For active transportation infrastructure to truly benefit Contra Costa County and its residents, funding programs must consider both the initial construction and the long-term maintenance of these facilities. By advocating for a requirement that capital improvement funding be accompanied by a supporting maintenance program, the County can promote a more balanced, sustainable approach to active transportation development. I recommend that the Board of Supervisors include this proposal in the 2024-2025 Legislative Platform to ensure the longevity and quality of our active transportation network.

Thank you for considering this proposal, which seeks to address the ongoing maintenance challenges associated with expanding active transportation options in our community.