

February 6, 2024

Supervisor Gonzalez
Supervisor Macaulay
Supervisor Poythress
Supervisor Rogers
Supervisor Wamhoff

Please reconstitute the Boards for the Transportation Commission and Authority to include citizens, and specifically to provide equitable coverage throughout the whole county. The heart of the problem with Measure T, currently and prospectively, is the makeup of the two boards. Also, we have commented in the past about the lack of adequate citizen input, and continue to do so. Representation on those two boards must be balanced in addition to including citizens.

Those two transportation boards are made up of the same 6 people. Moreover, representation on those boards and the Policy Advisory Committee is severely unbalanced. All 6 people, that means 100% of both boards, cover only the area west of a boundary which is roughly highway 99 except for a small area of eastern Chowchilla and Madera. There are NO representatives covering anything east of that boundary.

Further, four of those board members cover only Madera city and a small surrounding margin, an area with only 200 miles of city and County roads. Two of those 4 people are county supervisors, who cover a mere 25 miles of County roads. That's right at 1% of total County roads.

In sharp contrast, all of eastern Madera County, east of that boundary with almost 1200 miles of roads have NO representation on both boards. . . 4 people for 200 miles and none for 1200 miles? That must change!

In the narrow view, there is an easy fix...switch the 2 supervisors now on the boards for the two not on the boards. If that's the only change made, the core problem would remain. The 1972 resolution restricted the Transportation board members to only county supervisors and effectively blocked citizens from being on those boards. This request is for you change all of that.

The attachment highlights many other important aspects of the prospective Measure T and the changes that are also needed.

We need and support a 1/2 percent sales tax and a properly designed Measure T. However, several important changes are needed for sustainable support.

Thank You

Dan Metz,
Alternate, Citizens Steering Committee