

February 6, 2024

Supervisor Gonzalez  
Supervisor Macaulay  
Supervisor Poythress  
Supervisor Rogers  
Supervisor Wamhoff

The core problem of Measure T is the make-up of the MCTA and MCTC boards. I ask you to change the structure of the boards of the Transportation Commission and the Authority. You alone have the authority to do that and only a stroke of the pen is required.

The Citizens Steering Committee is told they cannot address the make-up of the two Boards because they are set by state codes. I don't see where that is specified in the codes. In an intricate trail through various state codes, we end up with the make-up of those transportation boards being subject only to Section 29535 of the California Government Code. That code provides for the county supervisors to "appoint 3 people to be board members" to be the local transportation commission and the same applies for the two cities. There is no requirement about who those members may be. There is nothing that restricts board members to only county supervisors; there is nothing that prohibits ordinary citizens being on the boards.

However, 50 years ago, by the choice of the supervisors at that time, they went beyond Section 29535, and passed resolution No. 72-331, restricting Transportation Board members to Supervisors only. In 2006, with the advent of the current Transportation Authority, the board then opted to name the Transportation Commission Board as the Transportation Authority Board. That means 3 of you supervisors, who constitute the majority of this Board sit on both Boards of the Commission and Authority. You also sit on the Policy Advisory Committee. Whether intentional or not, that almost certainly affords the County supervisors who sit on those boards, dominion, and clearly precludes citizen input---a problem generally pointed out by the Grand Jury a handful of years ago, a sentiment that has been repeated since then.

We ask you to restructure the transportation boards to include citizens. The only thing required is a new contemporary resolution by this board, to provide for qualified citizens to be members of those 2 Boards.

We need Measure T, and we will support a measure T. However, FIRST. many important changes are needed to create a good product for the ballot, the core change being the structure. It doesn't seem feasible to accomplish those multiple changes in time to include on the ballot for the November 2024 ballot given that your decision needs to be made very, very soon.

Again, we ask you to please change the structure of the Transportation Boards. The five of you alone have the authority to do so.

Thank you.

Mark Reed  
Member of Citizens Steering Committee