

California State Senate

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September 11, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 285 (Friedman)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 285, which requires the state's long-range transportation plan to align future transportation investments with goals to reduce vehicle travel and shift funding priorities away from systems that people actually use, toward transit, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure.

There are baseline requirements when implementing transportation planning because transportation infrastructure touches virtually every element of the daily life. While it makes sense to consider all the disparate elements of planning, fundamentally, the role of planning is not and should never be to force people to behave as the government wants them to. The goal of the sustainable communities strategy is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), promoting migration to dense urban areas and increasing the preference for transit, walking, and biking. While these may be supportable goals, without a solution to the housing affordability crisis in the urban core, there is simply no sustainable way to implement a plan to force people downtown without devastating our economy and further harming the working-class families that these policies are supposed to help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove".

Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader