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May 1, 2017

Ventura County Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: Comments on Chapter 6 – General Plan Background Report: Transportation and Mobility**

We want to applaud the County for compiling a Background Report with valuable statistics about transportation and transit use in Ventura County. This information will be useful in helping determine the priorities of the county government in drafting the updates to the General Plan. While we believe that the information compiled is a good start, we think that the addition of other useful data will improve the Background Report's ability to make the transportation priorities of the County clear.

Given the emphasis that the County has placed on increasing active transportation usage, future policy decisions can be improved by including additional data on how pedestrians and bicyclists affect the total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The final Background Report should indicate how both existing pedestrian and bicycle usage reduce VMT in the county as well as include the cost of maintaining existing bikeways and pedestrian facilities. This will help the County better evaluate the cost effectiveness of different transportation solutions, both in reducing VMT as well as other goals such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This is especially relevant given the projected shortfall in road maintenance funding that the County will experience over the next few decades. The municipal and county governments combined have a projected shortfall of \$438 million over 10 years and \$2.2 billion over 30 years. Given this significant funding problem, the County should look at ways to create new bikeways and pedestrian routes along existing roads. This will allow for greater efficiency of maintenance funds, as dollars are spent on existing roadways that already need maintenance as opposed to spending money on upkeep for separate active transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Sean Paroski  
Director of Policy and Advocacy