



Loma Prieta Chapter serving San Mateo, Santa Clara & San Benito Counties
June 3, 2015

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Ad Hoc Committee

RE: Envision Silicon Valley Draft Goals

Dear Committee members:

Thank you for working through the process of visioning the goals for Silicon Valley. I am writing to express concern with a couple of goals. The goal on congestion relief calls for relieving congestion on roadway, highway and expressway bottlenecks. I hope that the other goals will inform how this goal is translated into policy. In the past this goal was met with roadway widening- a response opposed by the Sierra Club. Subsequent analysis has shown that the relief is temporary due to induced driving. The resultant increase in Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) has been shown to be a major cause of greenhouse gases from this region. Even the California Environmental Quality Act has been amended to require VMT reduction instead of bottleneck relief.

Within the same goal on congestion relief transit is weakly represented. The goal to "improve transit service and travel times to meet demand" should be strengthened by making transit times competitive with single occupant vehicles. Ensuring a functioning network for all mobility modes, to provide a useful alternative to the automobile, would be a welcome first step.

Thank you for your consideration and an overall vision that would complement the future of the region.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gladwyn d'Souza
Chair, Transportation Committee
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter