Transportation Choices for Sustainable Communities
Research and Policy Institute

1834 Casterline Road
Oakland CA 94602
650-248-5808
info@transportchoice.org

February 14, 2014

Christopher Calfee, Senior Counsel
Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: LOS Alternatives

Dear Mr. Calfee:

As a newly formed California nonprofit corporation focused on promoting transportation choices that enhance environmental sustainability, we strongly support the use of alternative metrics to automobile level of service (LOS) including measures that address how well our communities promote the environmentally-friendly modes of public transit, bicycling and walking.

In general, we offer the following comments:

1. The land use context must be taken into account when determining the thresholds of significance of transportation impacts.

2. Mitigation measures to mitigate automobile delay such as such as roadway widenings and providing double and triple left-turn lanes should not negatively impact the real environment.

3. Transit and bicycling and pedestrian modes must be given equal weight in every transportation study.

We offer the following suggestions for new questions for the IS Transportation Checklist.

4. As stated above, I believe there should be a measure of the transit service in every transportation section of the EIR and if the transit service doesn’t meet certain standards* then mitigation dollars should spent to improve transit, as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
5. Would the project affect pedestrian/bicycle circulation/access by closing roads or existing bike/pedestrian connections, or by reducing or eliminating existing or by precluding future bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, pedestrian pathways, sidewalks or shoulders?

6. Do provisions made for automobile parking take into account: i) shared parking among different users to maximize utility of the parking supply and ii) parking pricing and other measures to reduce parking demand?

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute our comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kott
Principal and Vice President
Transportation Choices for Sustainable Communities

cc: Yoriko Kishimoto, President of the Board of Directors