Fresno Council
of Governments

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November 21, 2013

Mayor Ashley Swearengin
Fresno City Council Members
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Support of General Plan Alternative A (modified) and Bus Rapid Transit

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

As the regional planning agency for Fresno County, Fresno COG is particularly interested in our member agencies' planning activities as they are essential to our mutual efforts to develop an integrated land use and transportation vision for the region.

As you know, we are in the midst of our Regional Transportation Plan update, which will include the first Sustainable Communities Strategy for our region. As part of this process, we have compared several different land use scenarios using ten performance measures. One of those scenarios, Scenario B, is based on the latest planning assumptions from our member agencies. In the case of the City of Fresno, we are using the planning assumptions your Council approved last year for your general plan update as represented in Alternative A (modified). We commend your selection of this alternative as it reflects the Blueprint Smart Growth Principles and contributes significantly to sustainable development and the greenhouse gas reductions required under SB 375.

In addition, the city's leadership in promoting higher capacity transit with the Bus Rapid Transit project further supports sustainability goals. While the General Plan update is still in draft form and the BRT continues to be discussed, we have used both of these projects as the basis for our "current planning assumptions" scenario. Since we completed our analysis using this information, any data modifications at this time could seriously jeopardize our RTP adoption timeline, to which we are bound by law. We encourage your Council to stay the course on your earlier decisions on these projects - not only because they have a sound sustainability focus but also because they make a significant contribution to our ability to meet the target greenhouse gas emission reductions we have been assigned by the California Air Resources Board.

Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to improve the quality of life in our region.

Sincerely,

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Chairman Fresno COG Policy Board
Mayor, City of San Joaquin

Cc: Bruce Rudd, City Manager

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City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
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