

## **Resolution in Support of Increased Implementation and Use of Public Transportation in Santa Clara County**

WHEREAS, 38% of emissions in the State of California are from the transportation sector according to the California 2020 GHG Inventory and remains to be the top economic sector source of emissions; and<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, increased support of public transportation within all levels of government, is essential to sufficiently mitigate climate change, while remedying social inequities by offering the following benefits:

1. Reduces GHG emissions
2. Removes automobiles off of our roads, addressing our traffic-related fatalities epidemic, whereby an estimated 42,000 people die per year in the country<sup>2</sup>
3. Purifying our air of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, VOCs, and more
4. Encourages more active lifestyles, including walking and biking
5. Creates access to people of all backgrounds, class, and zip code, as an automobile is estimated to cost \$10,000 per year<sup>3</sup>
6. Improves social, emotional, and mental wellbeing; and<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, a lack of prioritization of public transit by Santa Clara County, and its contained municipalities, impacts the quality of transit service provided; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports policies, expenditures, and programs that promote and increase the use of public transportation within the county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Santa Clara County Democratic Party fully commit to improving upon public transportation services within Santa Clara County in order to make transit more accessible to people of all backgrounds by adopting policies like “Transit-First”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that publicly promoting and prioritizing public transit over further automobile dependency be a top priority in Santa Clara County and in the Santa Clara County Democratic Party platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party promotes and supports infill development near transit via implementation of urban planning concepts such as the 15 minute city and mixed-use development; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/ghg-inventory-data>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/traffic-crash-death-estimates-2022#:~:text=The%20National%20Highway%20Traffic%20Safety,42%2C939%20fatalities%20reported%20for%202021.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/car/cost-of-car-ownership/#cost>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.asla.org/sustainabletransportation.aspx>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party increase efforts for state and federal funding for the VTA visionary network — a vision for 83% more service within the county — as well public transportation in general.<sup>5</sup>

Submitted by Elisabeth Floyd, Xinpei Lu

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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/mallon-vta-has-a-vision-for-a-better-transit-system/ar-AA1dwqPZ>