

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

September 11, 2020

Agenda Item 4b

Sonoma County Transportation Authority 1/4-cent Sales Tax Extension

Subject: A proposed 20-year extension of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s (SCTA) sales tax.

Background: Earlier this summer, the SCTA board of directors voted to ask Sonoma County voters to approve a 20-year extension of its existing 1/4-cent sales tax that will expire in 2025. The measure will appear as Measure DD on the November ballot. An early renewal would provide the certainty needed for SCTA to keep the project pipeline moving and provide matching funds for state transportation programs and other grant funds. The Measure DD tax renewal would sunset March 31, 2045. As a special tax, Measure DD would require two-thirds voter approval.

Discussion: The current Sonoma County sales tax, approved in 2004 as Measure M, has helped fund transportation projects throughout the county. The current ¼-cent sales tax is not set to expire until April 2025, but all of its forecasted revenue—estimated to total approximately \$400 million over the 20-year period—is already committed to projects. The multimodal investment plan for the proposed 20-year sales tax extension—the “Go Sonoma Act,” or Measure DD—would fund four programs in two categories, as shown in the chart below:

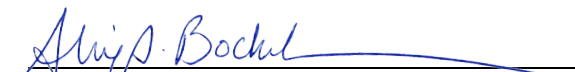
Fix roads, fill potholes, improve safety	
Smooth & maintained roads	38%
Move traffic & improve safety	27%
Improve alternatives to driving, combat climate change	
Increase bus service, affordability, and first/last mile connections	23%
Build bikeways & pathways	12%
Total	100%

Source: [SCTA Ordinance No. 5, July 2020](#)

To sustain the funding source for critical matching funds for Sonoma County transportation priorities, staff recommends the Committee refer a position of support on Measure DD to the Commission for approval.

Recommendation: Support / MTC Commission Approval

Positions:	Support	Oppose
	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition Engineering Contractors Association Sonoma County Alliance Sonoma County Transportation and Land Use Coalition Sonoma County Conservative Action Operating Engineers, Local 3	North Bay Leadership Council North Coast Builders Exchange Sonoma County Farm Bureau


Alix A. Bockelman