

December 19, 2007

DEC 20 2007

Mr. Mike McKeever
SACOG Executive Director
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: MTP Comments

Dear Mr. McKeever:

I am writing to register my strong support for SACOG's 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and in particular the effort to extend Regional Transit's light rail service to North Natomas and Sacramento International Airport.

As a resident of the city's North Natomas Community and employee located in Downtown Sacramento, I am painfully aware of growing congestion along the one and only freeway corridor connecting the two. Interstate 5 currently serves as the only direct vehicular route available to Natomas residents, airport travelers and Downtown employees since no high-occupancy public transportation alternative currently exists. The proposed Downtown-Natomas-Airport (DNA) light rail extension will address this deficiency and provide a much-needed service for local commuters and residents of the greater six-county region.

29-1

For me, and tens of thousands of other daily commuters and airport travelers, it is critical that the 2035 MTP prioritize financing, appropriations and construction schedules for the proposed DNA light rail extension. Unlike other communities north of the American River, the Natomas area is relatively isolated with very few public transit options providing service to and from Downtown Sacramento. Without a firm commitment to provide light rail service to Sacramento International Airport and Natomas, this region's residents risk increased freeway congestion, deteriorating air quality and more time wasted in traffic; all symptoms of a paralyzed transportation network and declining quality of life.

Speaking as one Natomas resident who hopes to avoid a future when a five mile commute downtown takes more than 45 minutes, I implore the powers that be to take very seriously a commitment to extend light rail northward to the Airport and provide residents, employees and air travelers a viable transit option. SACOG's 2035 MTP should reflect this very worthy objective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Phillip R. Serna