



NEW WAY HOMES



August 23, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1147 (as amended August 16, 2021) -- SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Portantino,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 1147 (Friedman), as amended on August 16, 2021. This bill takes an incremental, but important step forward in the effort to address the failure of Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs), particularly through more dense and equitable development.

Under SB 375, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) were required to meet GHG emission reduction targets, as set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), through the adoption of a Sustainable Communities Strategy. AB 1147 would expand and link two reports (the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) report regarding the California Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Plans/SCSs and CARB's status reports) to include, among other things, an assessment of the barriers to achieving GHG reductions and VMT reductions, and recommendations to achieve these reductions. Further, this bill authorizes CARB to request necessary data from the MPOS and California Transportation Commission to further the preparation its reports.

AB 1147 also requires local agencies to consult with an MPO if the MPO reasonably concludes that the local agency's land use decisions and transportation projects will interfere with the region's achievement of its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Finally, this bill would require the Office of Planning and Research to develop a guidance document to provide best practices for establishing a "15-minute community," which is defined as a portion of a city or unincorporated county where every resident has access to essential services within a 15-minute bicycle ride or public transit ride.

California has not produced the climate, health, equity, and conservation outcomes envisioned with the adoption of SB 375. The state, regional and local governments have struggled to align land use with the need to reduce VMT and the corresponding emissions that cause air pollution and climate change. AB 1147 would generate new information and tools and increased accountability as part of an ongoing effort to find a path forward for MPOs to reach their GHG emission targets while producing denser and more equitable development with access to active transportation.

For these reasons, we urge an "Aye" vote on AB 1147.

Sincerely,

Louis Mirante  
Legislative Director  
California YIMBY

Dan Silver  
Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League

Leonora Camner  
Executive Director  
Abundant Housing Los Angeles

Pamela Flick  
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New Way Homes