

November 2, 2023 Testimony

Joint Meeting of the California Air Resources Board, the California Transportation Commission,  
and the California Department of Housing and Community Development

Agenda Item 2

# TH!RD ACT SACRAMENTO

Good morning, my name is Diana Cassady and I am the facilitator of Third Act Sacramento. We are a group of elders who are deeply concerned about climate chaos and the future of our children and grandchildren. Third Act has thousands of members in California and about 60,000 nationwide.

California needs to lead on climate, and in many ways we are recognized nationally and even internationally as climate leaders. But in transportation, we lag behind. As with other speakers have done, I want to thank you – Commissioners and staff – for your efforts and to urge you to do more.

Specifically, we need to align our spending with our values. According to a report by the Natural Resources Defense Council, 80 percent of the state’s transportation dollars are going to maintain or expand our highest polluting sector – highways.

We know that reducing VMTs are an essential to meeting our state’s greenhouse gas emissions goals. Decades have research have shown that widening highways only increases VMTs. Yet CalTrans seems committed to widening highways. Therefore, we have two requests:

- We ask that the next Joint Meeting be solely about VMT reductions and accountability to our climate targets and request that Caltrans be present and able to address concerns.
- Third Act, along with over 100 organizations within California and across the country, have called for a moratorium on highway widening until there is an audit of the SHOPP program. We should not continue spending, until we are certain our dollars are being spent appropriately.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my comment.