



To Whom It May Concern,

We, at RideSD, are advocating for a change in the priority of the 2024 city budget's traffic signal optimization, moving away from a focus on general traffic improvements and towards emphasizing transit enhancement instead. As staunch supporters of public transit enhancement in San Diego, we firmly believe that this investment is crucial for attaining the city's climate action goals, mitigating traffic congestion, and fostering equity by improving public transit services.

While the Council has already acknowledged traffic signal optimization as a budget priority, we are concerned that the current definition solely focuses on general traffic. We kindly request that you consider changing the focus of traffic signal optimization to emphasize giving priority to buses and the San Diego trolley, allowing them to move ahead of general vehicle traffic at signals.

Reliable service and faster travel times are vital for creating new transit riders. Prioritizing traffic signals for public transit can contribute significantly towards this goal. By providing buses and the trolley with priority at intersections, they can operate more swiftly and efficiently, reducing travel time for passengers and enhancing the overall appeal of public transit services. This, in turn, can motivate more individuals to opt for public transit as their primary mode of transportation, subsequently lowering greenhouse gas emissions and bolstering San Diego's progress on our climate action objectives.

Apart from the environmental advantages, traffic signal priority for public transit can foster equity by improving public transit services for the most economically disadvantaged residents of San Diego. It has been shown that the vast majority of existing transit riders are likely to be classified as low-income and/or minority. The transit riders rely on public transit for commuting to work, school, and other essential destinations. By minimizing travel time, we can facilitate their access to these opportunities.

We strongly urge you to ensure funding for traffic signal optimization targets prioritizing public transit in the 2024 city budget. This commitment is indispensable for achieving San Diego's climate action objectives, advancing equity, and enhancing the overall quality of public transit services in our city. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

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