

TA

CORRESPONDENCE

as of 3-1-2024

From: [Mike Swire](#)
To: [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](#); [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Poll on how we should spend our highway funds
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:54:47 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
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Dear SMCTA Board and CAC,

Thank you for your contributions to transportation in San Mateo County.

In order to better understand public sentiment on road/highway spending in SMC, I conducted this unscientific poll of NextDoor users on the mid-Peninsula.

I received 300+ responses off of 11,000 page views. [Below is the poll and the results.](#) In summary, an overwhelming majority of respondents prefer that the County spend highway/road money on fixing potholes instead of widening highways.

Sincerely,

Mike Swire
Appointee, SMCTA CAC (writing as an individual)



Michael Swire

Hillsborough • 8 Feb • 🌐



How would you prefer that San Mateo County spend taxpayers' highway/road dollars?



Fix it first - fill potholes, smooth roads, implement safety improvements in crash-prone areas, increase enforcement of traff... 83% (255)

Add road capacity - widen highways to accommodate more cars on the road, widen local roads to allow more cars to get to the highway 17% (52)

+1 ❤️ 😊 20

❤️ Like

💬 25 Comments

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Maria Melgar • Borel • 3w

...

What good is it to have more roads with pot holes?

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Gladwyn d'Souza • Downtown Belmont • Edited 3w

...

Pot holes: Free. Reverse speed bumps. (edited)

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Edgar Coral • The Highlands • 3w

...

What good is it to have smooth roads if you're stuck in stop and go traffic all the time?

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Maria Melgar • Borel • Edited 3w

...

Edgar at least you will still get to your destination. Slowly but surely. Hit those potholes and you can pop a tire (edited)

Like Reply Share



Michael Swire Author • Hillsborough • 2w

...

Edgar How do you suggest we combat traffic congestion?

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Christine Cook 🇺🇸 • North Central • Edited 2w

...

Michael leave the potholes. Convert to bike lanes. Obviously a Newsom plot to do away with cars 🤖 (edited)

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Amy Shulman • Foster City Central • 3w

...

Get rid of the fastrak charges

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Susan Jung • Harbortown • 3w

...

North 101 Palo Alto through Redwood City is hazardous

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Arleen Ca • Oak Grove Manor • 3w

...

I would like to see better transportation options. The Bay Area will continue to see an increase in population. Continuing to add lanes to accommodate this growth is not possible. If there are not good alternatives everyone is forced to to drive creating traffic issues

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Gerd Stieler  · Redwood City, CA · Edited 3w



After the big Infrastructure Bill was signed, many US states started repaving and fixing. Caltrans took that money for new projects. Locally in RWC it took them 6 weeks to repave Jefferson/Farm Hill Blvd and it was such a lousy patch job because they apparently couldn't afford to fix the full stretch. Turns out the city is scratching and clawing money together to prepare for Woodside Interchange (\$500M) and six Grade Separation projects (\$1-2B), when one would probably be enough. SamTrans took money that should have gone to upgrading service to buy a new HQ, keeping the old one. They also want to spent \$50M for repairing an old SSF building all while preparing voters for the "Fiscal Cliff". And only 13% of bus stops have bus shelters - the number one sign an agency values their customers. They keep reducing service for customers while preparing for a bigger administration. (edited)

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Donna Chinn · Cordes South · 2w



Get rid of the longer fastrak hours on 101 that we didnt vote for but paid for....

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Mark Mc · Willow Circle · 2w



Well, repairing El Camino Real would be a great start.

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Pete S. • Burlingame Gate • 2w

...

By adding road capacity to help reduce traffic will also have the effect of those roads being repaired. Cyclist like me use roads every day. There needs to be more and better planned roads. It's a win win for both cyclists and cars. 😊

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John Kwong • North Central • 2w

...

It rarely works that way now. The State is mandating gas tax money to be used for transportation including the installation of bike lanes, etc.

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Claudette Wood • Greater East San Carlos • 2w

...

Fix it first!

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Amy MacDonald • Gramercy-Mounds El Cerrito • 2w

...

Get rid of fast track lanes so ALL lanes can be used by everyone!!

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Matt Bugna • Beresford Park • 2w

...

Maybe, just maybe actually spending it on the highways/roadways.

Like Reply Share



Gerd Stieler 🇧🇪 • Redwood City, CA • 2w

...

Council Member Aguirre helped wasting the money that should have gone to road fixing for a \$600M highway-widening project so Company Shuttles can go faster and rich tech CEOs too.... See more

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Monic Stuart • Hillsborough • 2w

...

It's simply ridiculous trying to drive down 101 due to the potholes. It is putting people's lives at risk.

We pay so much money in taxes in CA but the roads are far worse than anywhere else I've traveled in the US.

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Daniel Zizmor • Greater East San Carlos • Edited 2w

...

Adding capacity is a fool's errand. I regret voting for previous bills whose primary selling point was that. More capacity just results in more cars. A vicious cycle that has turned the Bay Area into LA.

<https://youtu.be/CHZwOAlect4?si=cHMM1A5e7SyFqyh4> (edited)

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Kevin Hicks • Easton Addition South • 2w



I've got a novel idea! How about on our Roads!

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Amir Gur • White Oaks • 2w



Thanks, [Michael](#), [Edgar](#), [Arleen](#), [Daniel](#), [Monic](#), community,

Believe our mutual longer term goal is to reduce overall traffic. Definitely not to increase lanes.

We should incentivize and promote:

- Remote work / Flexible hours
- Bicycles
- Carpooling
- Carsharing (helpful once more mature, post robotaxi focus)
- Maintain population (not increase)
- Public Good (Public inputs on specifics during terms, not only while electing. Anti lobbying legislation. Etc.)

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Monic Stuart • Hillsborough • 2w



[Amir](#) long term goals are one thing. But not properly addressing a VERY dangerous situation is another.... Unless an increase in highway fatalities or avoiding highway driving are part of the plans to reduce road traffic.

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Amir Gur • White Oaks • Edited 2w



[Monic](#) - thanks - there are too many potholes of late, and they should immediately be addressed. Results are pretty clear. And they got 2 good reasons:

- One is what you said - danger means yes-to-fix-potholes.
- Two is what I listed - what to do instead of adding lanes. (skipped the why: we humans destroy and pollute the planet, and tend to throw resources "out the window" way too quickly for various reasons, most of which we better sharply re-prioritize) (edited)

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John Albright • Rollins Road • 1w



we need more commuter lanes so the rich can pay for travel at speed more electric car charging stations so we have higher PG & E and that feeling that we are all saving the planet

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