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Agenda Item: 5:00 p.m.

Date: 1/30/14

CITY CLERK, FRESNO CA

## FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



### Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Related Items – 5:00 p.m.

Supplemental Packet Date: January 30, 2014

Item(s)

Actions pertaining to the Bus Rapid Transit Project – City Manager's Office

*A gentleman from the American Lung Association stated he had submitted the attached letter to the City Clerk's website on January 14, 2014 per a telephone conversation on January 30, 2014.*

#### **Supplemental Information:**

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.



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[lung.org/california](http://lung.org/california)

January 14, 2014

Mayor Ashley Swearengin and Members  
Fresno City Council  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA  
93721

**Subject: Support for Bus Rapid Transit**

Dear Mayor Swearengin and Members,

On behalf of the American Lung Association in California, I am writing to express our support for bringing the air quality and public health benefits of high quality Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service to the residents of the City of Fresno. The lung association is a strong supporter of programs that reduce the need for residents to drive, cut pollution and boost healthy, active transportation choices. We believe the BRT project is key to those goals.

The City of Fresno's pursuit of the BRT system is an important effort for accelerating clean air progress to protect the public's health. The American Lung Association's 2013 *State of the Air* report found that Fresno is the fourth most polluted city in the United States on the basis of ozone (smog) pollution, with residents facing an average of over 58 unhealthy air days per year. The city is also ranked as the second most polluted city in the nation on the basis of over 40 unhealthy particulate pollution days per year recorded in the 2013 *State of the Air* report. For the tens of thousands of Fresno residents living with asthma, including approximately 20,000 children, BRT means fewer vehicles adding to unhealthy pollution levels. This will not only benefit residents locally, but also residents throughout Fresno County.

In addition to air quality benefits associated with providing residents more transportation choices, BRT could provide broader chronic illness reduction benefits as transit use is correlated with more daily walking. Increasing daily physical activity is a crucial component in reducing the burdens of lung diseases, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, cancers and mental health issues. The health benefits of more transit use are especially important as Fresno County ranks poorly in terms of death rates due to diabetes and other chronic illnesses that can benefit from more daily physical activity.

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Taking advantage of the state and federal funding to move forward with Bus Rapid Transit in Fresno can provide residents with cleaner air, greater opportunities to incorporate health-beneficial daily physical activity, and greater transportation choices. The American Lung Association in California urges the City Council to follow through with this important program to benefit public health in Fresno.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Peterson, MD  
Volunteer Physician, American Lung Association in California

cc: Bruce Rudd, City Manager  
Douglas Sloan, City Attorney  
Yvonne Spence, City Clerk  
Jennifer Clark, Planning Director  
Ken Hamm, FAX Director