



**Circulate San Diego**  
1111 6th Avenue, Suite 402  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Tel: 619-544-9255  
Fax: 619-531-9255  
[www.circulatesd.org](http://www.circulatesd.org)

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April 16, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1730 – SANDAG Regional Transportation Plan – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to promote excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1730 (Gonzalez). AB 1730 would extend the deadline for SANDAG to submit their regional transportation plan to the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation by two years.

Circulate has long advocated for prioritizing and increasing investments in public transit at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). With new leadership at the helm operating in a post-AB 805 environment, we support providing SANDAG the time needed to develop a new vision for the regional transportation plan (RTP).

SANDAG is responsible for submitting an updated RTP to the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation every four years. These updated plans are essential in order to be eligible for state and federal funding for projects. Part of this planning includes the Sustainable Communities Strategy, which shows how the San Diego region will achieve the 19% reduction target for greenhouse gases by 2035 set by the California Air Resources Board.

Local governmental entities, environmental advocates, and community groups agree that San Diego cannot do its part in combatting climate change without a drastic change, and the kind of change that needs proper planning. Under current deadlines, the region simply won't be able to do this, and will continue not making real progress.

AB 1730 would allow SANDAG additional time to plan and be ambitious in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in order to ensure the region is doing the most it can in the best way possible. The bill would grant SANDAG a 2 year extension to update its RTP, and make conforming changes. As part of this, SANDAG would be able to utilize its existing plan, including the environmental impact report and sustainable communities strategy, for the purposes of compliance with state and federal law until the updated plan is finalized. Granting this extension through code will ensure that the region stays in compliance and does not miss out on vital opportunities for state and federal funding of projects.

Circulate San Diego thanks you for your leadership in authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

Maya Rosas  
Director of Policy