

# How Does Transit Impact Climate Change?

It is a well known fact that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles are a major contributor to global climate change. Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) in California addresses this fact by stating,

“Greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks can be substantially reduced by new vehicle technology and by the increased use of low carbon fuel. However, even taking these measures into account, **it will be necessary to achieve significant additional greenhouse gas reductions from changed land use patterns and improved transportation.** Without improved land use and transportation policy, California will not be able to achieve the goals of AB 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act).”<sup>1</sup>

Recent research shows that despite technological advances, GHG emissions will continue to rise, because the increase in driving is projected to overwhelm planned improvements in vehicle efficiency. Recognizing the unsustainable growth in driving, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, representing state departments of transportation, is urging that the growth of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) be cut in half.<sup>2</sup> The San Diego Association of Government’s current Regional Transportation Plan (the 2030 RTP), which was produced in 2007, estimated that in 2009 yearly average VMT for the entire region would be approximately 89 million, and that this number would grow to approximately 115 million by 2030.<sup>3</sup> The San Diego region can use the 2050 RTP and the Urban Area Transit Strategy as an opportunity to reverse this unsustainable trend, by increasing transit infrastructure and reducing VMT.

Please get involved in the Urban Area Transit Strategy to increase transit infrastructure and create a sustainable future for San Diego!!!!

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<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill 375 § 1(c). Available at: [http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb\\_0351-0400/sb\\_375\\_bill\\_20080902\\_enrolled.pdf](http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0351-0400/sb_375_bill_20080902_enrolled.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The Urban Land Institute. April 2008. *Growing Cooler: the Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*. Available at: <http://www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/pdf/GrowingCooler-Ch1Overview.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.sandag.org/programs/transportation/comprehensive\\_transportation\\_projects/2030rtp/2007rtp\\_E\\_final.pdf](http://www.sandag.org/programs/transportation/comprehensive_transportation_projects/2030rtp/2007rtp_E_final.pdf)