



**SPUR**

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

January 22, 2016

Oakland City Council  
Public Works Committee  
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Support for Department of Transportation and Infrastructure**  
(Public Works Committee Item 3 -January 26, 2016)

Dear Councilmembers Gallo, Kalb, Kaplan and Reid:

SPUR is a non-profit, member-supported organization that supports good planning and good government. In 2013, SPUR began research, education and advocacy in Oakland; transportation is a core area of SPUR's work. We think that a well-run Department of Transportation is essential to the success of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Oakland.

We support staff's proposal to create an integrated Department of Transportation and Infrastructure in the City of Oakland (Alternative B). These administrative changes are needed to follow through on the Mayor's transportation policy and practice goals.

SPUR's 2015 *Downtown for Everyone* study recommended that Oakland build a Department of Transportation as a way to establish a broad and unified transportation vision across many disparate projects and infrastructure investments. As an example, we noted that a well-run DOT can coordinate transit users needs and others' needs when designing streets. We also identified Oakland's big transportation opportunity: to make it possible for everyone, regardless of income, to walk, bike and use transit to get around. A new DOT, with strong leadership, will enable Oakland to get its hands around these opportunities.

SPUR would like to contribute to development of the DOT Strategic Plan. We can offer expertise on transit coordination, and the coordination of land-use and transportation. We can help develop the best working structures and policies to achieve real results.

As you create this new Department, please consider the following:

**SAN FRANCISCO**

654 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 781-8726

**SAN JOSE**

76 South First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 638-0083

**OAKLAND**

1544 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 827-1900

[spur.org](http://spur.org)

- While including infrastructure is reasonable and may be effective, there should be assurance that transportation is the priority for this new department in 2016-2017.
- The next steps are critical to ensuring the ability of this new Department to lead and succeed: the department Strategic Plan and the selection of a Department Director and other department leadership.
- Continued innovation and course-adjustments will be required, such as: new legislation; new resources; and, new approaches to procurement, project delivery, information sharing or public process.
- Given the large role of parking in shaping the city, we think the integration of parking into the new department should be pursued.
- The additional funding required to run this department can be addressed in the next budget cycle and should not be a reason for delay on this proposal. The new department should be able to grow the City's transportation and infrastructure resources, and also enable more cost-effective practices.

Thank you for your leadership to ensure Oakland can grow gracefully, and more equitably.

Sincerely,



Sincerely,  
Ratna Amin  
SPUR Transportation Policy Director

