

To the Orange County Government,

We are a coalition of community organizations from across Orange County, deeply concerned about the long-term vision for Orange County's future. Seeing the current problems we face regarding transportation, housing affordability, and the environment, we all strongly believe that bold change is needed to address our problems.

Orlando has built its city around cars and not people, worsening traffic and commute times, causing urban sprawl in natural and rural areas like Split Oak, increasing temperatures through the urban heat island effect, and raising housing prices due to supply not meeting demand. With the Orange Code currently being drafted, we believe this is a crucial moment in Orange County history to move in the right direction and improve the quality of life for Orlandoans today and for the Orlandoans to come. Wider roads won't work; we're fighting for a safer and more walkable Orlando where you can choose to walk, bike, take a train or bus, and drive.

We are concerned that any Transportation Sales Tax in 2024 would invest the majority of funding towards that status quo of cars and car infrastructure. Because the sales tax would be a regressive form of taxation, there must be an offset in place to decrease the cost of living, especially for working-class people. Providing reliable mass transit and bike/pedestrian infrastructure can directly support these communities.

To ensure that our county can support the rapidly growing population, we, as a coalition, demand that the following conditions are met before we commit to support any Transportation Sales Tax:

1. Parking Mandates are eliminated from the Orange Code
 - a. Elimination of Table 3-6.1(1)
2. A clear majority of funds from the Transportation Sales Tax are allocated toward mass transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure
 - a. At least 60% of funding is specifically dedicated to Mass Transit
 - b. At least 10% of funding is specifically dedicated to safety improvements for cyclists and pedestrians

Signed,

Sunrise Movement Orlando
Orlando YIMBY

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