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Establish an â€œInnovative Projectsâ€ funding category

As a CEC Clean Transportation Program Advisory Board Member, I have the following comments:

The current plan is heavily focused on ZEVs and building out ZEV infrastructure. Zero emission vehicle technologies are rapidly transitioning through improved core technology components, innovative automation and communication strategies, and real-world learning experiences. While it is important to invest in and encourage market penetration of ZEVs, it is equally important to continue to foster innovation and support the development and deployment of improved technology options and intelligent transportation systems and strategies that support ZEVs. This would include technologies such as innovative EV routing algorithms that minimize energy consumption, dynamic pricing at EV charging infrastructure to help balance grid loads, time-of-use planning strategies for EV chargers to target the â€œduck curveâ€ problem, innovative vehicle-to-grid algorithms, and utilizing connectivity and automation to enhance ZEV performance in a shared mobility deployment.

I recommend that the Energy Commission commit a specific budget aimed at funding â€˜Innovative Projectsâ€™ to support Research, Development & Deployment of new technologies that can address critical cost and performance gaps in the transportation sector. While other source of funding maybe available for research projects, the Clean Transportation program is uniquely suited to identify and address such gaps and effectively support real world deployment.

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