

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Gayle B. Uilkema, 2nd District
Mary N. Piepho, 3rd District
Susan A. Bonilla, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

January 5, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
California State Senate, Room 5054
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Loni Hancock
California State Senate, Room 3092
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joan Buchanan
California State Assembly, Rm. 2130
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Assembly, Rm. 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
California State Assembly, Rm. 5160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Funding for Local Street and Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation

Dear Governor, Senators DeSaulnier and Hancock and Assembly members Buchanan, Skinner and Torlakson:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I am forwarding a Contra Costa County Board Resolution that supports the findings of the California Statewide Needs Assessment report. The report was a collaborative effort of the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, the County Engineers Association of California, Rural Counties Task Force, and other local and regional transportation agencies.

The report provides information and a critical analysis on the local transportation network's condition and funding needs. While needs assessments are routinely done for federal and state road networks, this type of assessment has not been done for the local streets and roads network that makes up 81% of California's roads.

The report concludes that the condition of California's local streets and roads is on the edge of a cliff. The current backlog of local road maintenance is \$37 billion statewide and our pavements are "at risk" with an average Pavement Condition Index of 68 on a scale of 100. If adequate funding is not provided, the backlog will grow to \$79 billion by 2033, and our pavements will be "poor" as the Pavement Condition Index will fall to 48. There is a \$99.7 billion need over the next 10 years to bring the local network to a cost effective condition and maintain it at that level. With current funding levels at \$28.3 billion, this leaves a \$71.4 billion shortfall. Any further deferral, take, or borrowing of local transportation revenues, such as

Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) or Proposition 42 funding, will only cause the shortfall to increase, costing us more in the future.

With the current deferral and uncertainty of HUTA and Proposition 42 funds to local agencies by the State, Contra Costa County has canceled our current fiscal year road surface treatment program in addition to other road maintenance and rehabilitation projects. With inadequate and unstable funding for transportation, Contra Costa County has seen a continual decline in our pavement condition since 2004.

Currently, Contra Costa County annually receives approximately \$14 million in HUTA, \$7 million in Proposition 42, and \$1.7 million in local sales tax for maintenance, operations, and emergency response of approximately 660 miles of roads. Raiding our local portion of HUTA and Proposition 42 funds would leave Contra Costa with only \$1.7 million to maintain and operate our roads and respond to emergencies on our local road network. We currently have a maintenance backlog of almost \$21 million. Without HUTA and Proposition 42 funds, our backlog will increase to \$59 million in the next 5 years. The local road network is a critical asset to our residents and businesses. If we do not properly maintain our local transportation road network, this asset will literally crumble and the safety of the traveling public will be put at risk.

Even with full funding of HUTA, Prop 42 and our local sales tax funds, we do not have enough funds to maintain our pavements to a good condition. The County strongly urges the State to identify sufficient and stable funding sources for local street and road maintenance and rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, Board of Supervisors

JG:SK:jcw
G:\transeng\2010\Correspondence\Delegation Letter on Transp Funding.doc

Enclosure

cc: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Cathy Christian, Nielsen Merksamer
Mark Watts, California Strategies
Julia Bueren, Public Works Director
Kiana Buss, CSAC