

The Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Mary N. Piepho, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

**Contra
Costa
County**



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

March 31, 2016

Subject: New Sustainable Transportation Funding

The Honorable Jim Frazier
P.O. Box 942849
State Capitol Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 94249-0011

Dear Assemblyman Frazier,

On behalf of the County of Contra Costa, I write to urge you to take action to avert the looming transportation crisis in the State of California and your district by working to find a bipartisan solution in 2016.

The primary sources of revenue to maintain, preserve, repair, and rehabilitate highways and local roads and bridges are state and federal gasoline excise taxes. Neither the state nor federal gas tax has been increased in more than 20 years. Both gas taxes are not adjusted for inflation or increases in the cost of construction. Increases in fuel efficiency, which is critical to reduce costs to motorists and meet our environmental goals, means that vehicles are travelling more yet paying less for use of the transportation system. These issues are compounded by gas tax fluctuations which hamper the ability to reliably plan and deliver road repairs and safety improvements.

The longer we wait to address our failing transportation infrastructure, the more it will cost in the long run, we need an immediate funding solution. Thank you in advance for your support on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candace Andersen".

Candace Andersen, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, District II

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor, State of California
The Honorable Kevin de Leon, President Pro Tem, California State Senate
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Minority Leader, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Minority Floor Leader, California State Assembly

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2016/133

Urging the State to provide new sustainable funding for State and Local transportation infrastructure

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. has called an extraordinary session to address the immense underfunding of California's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties own and operate more than 81% of streets and roads in California, and from the moment we open our front door to drive to work, bike to school, or walk to the bus station, people are dependent upon a safe, reliable local transportation network; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County has participated in efforts with the California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, and California's Regional Transportation Planning Agencies to study unmet funding needs for local roads and bridges, including sidewalks and other essential components; and

WHEREAS, the resulting 2014 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, which provides critical analysis and information on the local transportation network's condition and funding needs, indicates that the condition of the local transportation network is deteriorating as predicted in the initial 2008 study; and

WHEREAS, the results show that California's local streets and roads are on a path of significant decline. On a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent), the statewide average pavement condition index (PCI) is 66, placing it in the "at risk" category where pavements will begin to deteriorate much more rapidly and require rehabilitation or rebuilding rather than more cost-effective preventative maintenance if funding is not increased; and

WHEREAS, if funding remains at the current levels, in 10 years, 25% of local streets and roads in California will be in "failed" condition; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties need an additional \$1.7 billion just to maintain a status quo pavement condition of 66, and much more revenue to operate the system with Best Management Practices, which would reduce the total amount of funding needed for maintenance in the future; and

WHEREAS, models show that an additional \$3 billion annual investment in the local streets and roads system is expected to improve pavement conditions statewide from an average "at risk" condition to an average "good" condition; and

WHEREAS, if additional funding isn't secured now, it will cost taxpayers twice as much to fix the local system in the future, as failure to act this year will increase unmet funding needs for local transportation facilities by \$11 billion in five years and \$21 billion in ten years; and

WHEREAS, modernizing the local street and road system provides well-paying construction jobs and boosts local economies; and

WHEREAS, the local street and road system is also critical for farm to market needs, interconnectivity, multimodal needs, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, police, fire, and emergency medical services all need safe reliable roads to react quickly to emergency calls and a few minutes of delay can be a matter of life and death; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and preserving the local street and road system in good condition will reduce drive times and traffic congestion, improve bicycle safety, and make the pedestrian experience safer and more appealing, which leads to reduce vehicle emissions helping the State achieve its air quality and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals; and

WHEREAS, restoring roads before they fail also reduces construction time which results in less air pollution from heavy equipment and less water pollution from site run-off; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the local system, the state highway system needs an additional \$5.7 billion

annually to address the state's deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in order to bring the local system back into a cost-effective condition, at least \$7.3 billion annually in new money going directly to cities and counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to identify a sufficient and stable funding source for local street and road and state highway maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure the safe and efficient mobility of the traveling public and the economic vitality of California. **RESOLVED I**
RESOLVED FURTHER that Contra Costa County strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to adopt the following priorities for funding California's streets and roads: 1. **Make a significant new investment in transportation infrastructure.** Any package should seek to raise at least \$6 billion annually and should remain in place for at least 10 years or until an alternative method of funding our transportation system is agreed upon. 2. **Focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the current system.** Repairing California's streets and highways involves much more than fixing potholes. It requires major road pavement overlays, fixing unsafe bridges, providing safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, replacing storm water culverts, as well as operational improvements that necessitate the construction of auxiliary lanes to relieve traffic congestion choke points and fixing design deficiencies that have created unsafe merging and other traffic hazards. Efforts to supply funding for transit in addition to funding for roads should also focus on fixing the system first. 3. **Equal split between state and local projects.** We support sharing revenue for roadway maintenance equally (50/50) between the state and cities and counties, given the equally-pressing funding needs of both systems, as well as the longstanding historical precedent for collecting transportation user fees through a centralized system and sharing the revenues across the entire network through direct subventions. Ensuring that funding to local governments is provided directly, without intermediaries, will accelerate project delivery and ensure maximum accountability. 4. **Raise revenues across a broad range of options.** Research by the California Alliance for Jobs and Transportation California shows that voters strongly support increased funding for transportation improvements. They are much more open to a package that spreads potential tax or fee increases across a broad range of options, including fuel taxes, license fees, and registration fees, rather than just one source. Additionally, any package should move California toward an all-users pay structure, in which everyone who benefits from the system contributes to maintaining it – from traditional gasoline-fueled vehicles, to new hybrids or electric vehicles, to commercial vehicles. 5. **Invest a portion of diesel tax and/or cap & trade revenue to high-priority goods movement projects** While the focus of a transportation funding package should be on maintaining and rehabilitating the existing system, California has a critical need to upgrade the goods movement infrastructure that is essential to our economic well-being. Establishing a framework to make appropriate investments in major goods movement arteries can lay the groundwork for greater investments in the future that will also improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 6. **Strong accountability requirements to protect the taxpayers' investment.** Voters and taxpayers must be assured that all transportation revenues are spent responsibly. Local governments are accustomed to employing transparent processes for selecting road maintenance projects aided by pavement management systems, as well as reporting on the expenditure of transportation funds through the State Controller's Local Streets and Roads Annual Report.


CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair,
District II Supervisor


JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor


KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor


MARY N. PIEPHO

District III Supervisor


FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 15, 2016

David J. Twa,

By:  Deputy