

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
1025 Escobar St., 4th floor Martinez, California 94553

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

Contra Costa County



Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 655-2075

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Christopher M. Ward
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2120 (Ward): Investing Federal Funding in Local Bridges
As introduced on February 14, 2022 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

Contra Costa County supports your Assembly Bill 2120, which would ensure a fair and needs-based allocation of bridge formula funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). These funds would help close the significant gap between what is needed to repair and replace deteriorated local bridges and the \$300 million per year currently available statewide. The County is currently pursuing funding for numerous bridge projects, but without the additional funding allocated by AB 2120, it will be years before meaningful progress is made on these critical facilities.

Specifically, AB 2120 would apply California's historic formula from the prior federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program to the distribution of bridge formula funds from the IIJA, allocating 55% to local projects. AB 2120 would also require the state to maintain its current commitment of flexible federal highway funding to local bridges. Taken together, these changes would increase federal funding available to local bridges from approximately \$300 million annually to approximately \$800 million annually.

California has over 12,000 locally-owned bridges—more than 4,300 of which need costly repairs. Despite a typical design life of 75 to 100 years, nearly one-fifth of local bridges are at least 80 years old. There is a significant disparity in the condition of state and local bridges, with 11.5% of local bridges in poor condition compared to only 3.3% of state bridges. At the current rate of funding, the percentage of local bridges in poor condition will climb to above 50% within the next 20 years. Simply preventing further decay in local bridge conditions would require nearly \$800 million each year—an increase of approximately \$500 million annually.

Contra Costa County has 16 structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges in need of repair or replacement, many of which await federal funding. These structures are critical links in the

transportation network which support emergency response, commerce, and community connectivity, additional funding is needed to preserve this functionality.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing this important issue for counties. Contra Costa County strongly supports AB 2120.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Mitchoff".

Karen Mitchoff, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

cc:

- Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation
- The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
- Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
- Julia Kingsley, Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
- Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
- Brian Balbas – Director, Public Works
- John Kopchik – Director, Conservation and Development
- Marina Espinoza, California State Association of Counties