



ITEM 1 E

2035 Tulare St., Ste. 201 tel 559-233-4148
Fresno, California 93721 fax 559-233-9645

www.fresnocog.org

April 17, 2014

The Honorable John A. Perez,
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam Chair,

The Fresno Council of Governments, comprised of Mayors of each incorporated city in Fresno County as well as the Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors is responsible for undertaking the comprehensive regional transportation planning process in our region. We recognize the significance in preserving existing funding sources but we also understand that the needs are much larger than the funds available. That is why we support the allocation of any new additional transportation related funding sources as they become available to projects that will preserve and maintain our existing burdened infrastructure. Investments to preserve transportation infrastructure have not kept pace with the demand and have led to the deterioration of the usability of the network. According to the California Transportation Commission, 58% of California's roadways and 20% of its bridges require some sort of maintenance improvements while 6% of those bridges need to be replaced. In January 2013, the California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment reported that Fresno County will need \$2.5 billion to maintain the 12,702 lane miles we have over the next 10 years. The Fresno County region has 491 bridges that are in need of \$72 million in improvements.

It is our understanding that Assemblymember Henry Perea, along with 10 other Assemblymembers, have already sent a letter to you requesting that \$500 million of the FY 2014-15 budget's surplus be directed, as a one-time funding, to transportation infrastructure projects. Though we are glad that the Governor's Budget Proposal includes \$337 million in revenue from the General Fund in loan repayments to accelerate preservation and maintenance projects on both state highways and local roads, we still feel that this is not enough to address the immediate needs of our state's infrastructure problems. While we support additional

City of Clovis
City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
City of Fresno
City of Huron
City of Kerman
City of Kingsburg
City of Mendota
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of San Joaquin
City of Sanger
City of Selma
County of Fresno

funding be made available for the state highway system, we ask that this funding also be made available to the regions so that cities and counties can preserve their local streets and roads. In recognition that local streets and roads are the backbone of our transportation system, we ask that you consider our request during the budget committee discussions and negotiations with a focus on improving access, efficiencies, safety, and most importantly, cost-effective investments.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 559-233-4148 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Policy Board Chair

Fresno Council of Governments