

February 25, 2016

Insert Legislator Name and Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City, State Zip Code

RE: Continuing Transportation Funding Crisis

Dear Honorable (Insert Legislator's Name),

At their January 21 Meeting, the California Transportation Commission approved a revised Fund Estimate for the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that will require the alarming deletion of about \$750 million in critical transportation improvements throughout California. The State Transportation Improvement Program helps fund state highway, intercity rail, and regional highway and transit capital improvements. These are extremely important projects that have been in development by Regional and Local Agencies and in many instances in partnership with the State for many years. The project help achieve national, state, regional and local short and long-term goals and priorities. They consist of projects that help regions meet state air quality goals through SB 375 and also help improve safety, reduce congestion, improve local facilities for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, and most importantly help create jobs.

The revision to the STIP Fund Estimate is due to the estimated decrease to the State price-based portion of the gasoline tax that is currently the only fund source for the STIP. This is a volatile source of funding, since it is subject to adjustments based on fluctuations in the price of gasoline. The rate (established as part of the "gas tax swap") is set annually by the Board of Equalization at a level that generates the same amount of revenue as would have been received if the sales tax on gasoline had remained in effect. The current rate was decreased from 18 cents to 12 cents as of July 1, 2015. Due to the price of gasoline in the past year, the Board of Equalization is expected to reduce the tax further from 12 cents to 10 cents at their next meeting in spring of 2016. As such the CTC adopted a revised Fund Estimate at their January meeting that factored the reduction in the price based tax for the five year STIP period starting in Fiscal Year 16/17 through FY 20/21. This decrease of 2 cents with a gradual estimated increase of 2 cents per year will have a profound effect that will lead to less funding available than previously forecasted. The revised fund estimate projects a decrease of \$750 million in capacity from a prior estimate which is leading to the current predicament of needing to delete the same amount in projects.

We urge you to take action on addressing this issue related to price based excise tax that has a significant impact on funding important transportation projects. While there is a growing need for transportation funding, California is actually reducing its investments in transportation infrastructure. During this current special legislative session, many ideas have been brought forward to increase and stabilize sources of transportation funding. Recently, proposals by Governor Jerry Brown, Senator Jim Beall and Assemblyman Jim Frazier aim to remedy the issue with the price based excise tax to restore funding for transportation projects. Governor Brown proposes to restore the tax to 18 cents and Senator Beall and Assemblyman Frazier propose to increase the tax to provide additional funding for transportation. A fix must be made to address the funding as we now face the dire situation of having to delete projects from the STIP.

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

In our region, this would mean a deletion of \$_____ in projects. The table below provides a summary of projects that are at risk of deletion in our region.

Project Title	Location	STIP Amount	Matching Funds
Excelsior Expressway - HWY 41 from Kings County Line to Elkhorn Avenue	Near the city of Fresno, HWY 41 from the Kings County line to Elkhorn Avenue. Widen from 2-lane to 4-lane expressway.	\$2,142,000 (PE and ROW)	
SR 180-west of Smith to east of Frankwood: Construct 4 Lane Expressway	Kings Canyon Expressway-Segment 3 (Near Centerville and Minkler, on Route 180 from west of Smith Avenue to east of Frankwood Avenue. Construct 4 lane expressway on existing alignment.)	\$57,757,000	\$38,391,000
180 West Freeway Landscaping-Brawley to Teilman	In and near the City of Fresno from 0.2 mile west of Brawley Avenue to 0.2 mile East Teilman Avenue; highway planting.	\$4,022,000	\$550,000

We respectfully request your support to work with fellow Legislators to help identify a timely solution to address this serious issue with transportation funding. Please contact me at [559-233-4148](tel:559-233-4148) if you have any questions or would to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Amarpreet Dhaliwal
 Mayor Pro Tem, City of San Joaquin
 Chairman, Fresno Council of Government Policy Board

Cc: Members, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
 Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
 Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chair, California Transportation Commission
 Commissioners, California Transportation Commission
 Mr. Brian Kelly, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
 Mr. Will Kempton, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
 Mr. Malcolm Dougherty, Director, California Department of Transportation
 Mr. Bill Higgins, Executive Director, CalCOG