

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Josh Becker
California State Senator
State Capitol Building, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 640 (Becker) Transportation financing: jointly proposed projects – SUPPORT

Senator Becker,

Fresno Council of Governments voices its strong support for your SB 640, which permits neighboring cities to pool their SB 1 Local Streets and Roads dollars. This would enable cities/counties to propose jointly for an SB 1-funded project where a thoroughfare runs through multiple local jurisdictions, or where economies of scale could be realized through partnerships. The state Legislature should pass SB 640 to help local governments save time and money by avoiding project delays and piecemealing projects on highly traveled roads.

In cases where multiple jurisdictions have projects of mutual interest, your legislation allows them to pool their SB 1 resources for one combined regional project. This change would allow for SB 1 money to be stretched further and for regional jurisdictions to negotiate more competitive rates than any small city could achieve acting alone. In addition to cost savings, this bill will aid with project delays from contractors who must treat each project independently.

Several inefficiencies that drive up project costs could be remedied by providing cities with more flexibility. Paving projects are similar among jurisdictions. Currently, each city needs to issue separate bid packages and provide separate reporting to CTC. Additionally, this bill would consolidate reporting requirements to allow for a single report that identifies benefits to each participating jurisdiction as opposed to each agency having to issue its own set of reports for the same project.

The Fresno region includes several roadways that traverse multiple jurisdictions and are routinely traveled by residents from three or more cities. For example, this legislation could assist in a CMAQ-funded rehabilitation project between the City and County of Fresno on Jensen Avenue, as well as on future maintenance work along Golden State Avenue, which winds its way through no fewer than five Fresno region communities.

Thank you for sponsoring this bill that will provide local governments an efficient and streamlined option for projects funded with SB 1 Local Street and Roads dollars.

Sincerely,



Tony Boren
Executive Director

CC: Members, Senate Transportation Committee
Hon. Assemblymember Jim Patterson, 23rd District
Hon. Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, 31st District
Hon. Senator Andres Borgeas, 8th District
Hon. Senator Anna Cabellero, 12th District
Hon. Senator Melissa Hurtado, 14th District

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