May 27, 2015

The Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2209  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 16 as amended on May 13, 2015 – Funding for Local Streets and Road Maintenance

Dear Senator Beall:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 16 (Beall), the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee’s streets and roads funding proposal. The Long Beach City Council voted to support this legislation on May 19, 2015, with the intention of supporting efforts to increase transportation funding to cities for rehabilitation, resurfacing and reconstruction of local streets.

The need for local streets and roads funding is great. Long Beach’s pavement roadway network is valued at approximately $981 million. We have 177 miles of major roadways, which include arterial, collector and industrial streets. We also have 609 miles of local roadways, which include residential streets and frontage roads. Collectively, there are 786 miles of local streets in Long Beach. Major roadways in Long Beach have an average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 60, which means these roads are progressively cracking, have a few base failures and localized distress. Minor roadways in Long Beach have an even lower PCI of 47.5, which means that these streets suffer from localized base failures, extensive cracking and patching, as well as rutting at intersections.

Deficiencies in the City’s roadway system must be addressed. Research shows that the optimum time to apply a thin to moderate coat of overlay as a part of roadway maintenance is when streets near a PCI of 60. Maintaining streets when they reach a PCI of 60 allows the City to maintain relatively low repair costs with greater returns, as opposed to deferring the maintenance. Long Beach is in a prime position to effectively use new streets and roads funding. The City supports State funding for the construction and maintenance of local roads, infrastructure, transportation projects and major corridors. We urge an equitable distribution of regional transportation dollars to cities, and appreciate that the proposal thus far, allocates 50% of revenues to cities for local streets and roads.
Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports the transportation funding proposal that is being discussed.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
    The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
    The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
    The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
    The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
    The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District