



Date: September 1, 2015

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, Seventh District *(R)*

Subject: Support for Fix Our Roads

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request the City Attorney to draft a resolution urging the Governor and Legislature to identify a sufficient and stable funding source for local street and state highway maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure the safe and efficient mobility of the traveling public and the state's economic vitality.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Long Beach has made a significant investment in the last few years to improve the condition of our streets and roadways. However, the need to maintain our streets continues to far outweigh the resources available.

According to a recent presentation to the City Council by the Director of Public Works, the current average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for the City's network of streets is 60, which ranks between Fair and Good. The major roadways are in good condition with a PCI score of 63, while the minor roadways are in fair condition with a PCI score of 56.

However, more troubling in the Public Works Director's report is that there is a current backlog, or streets in need of repairs, of 20 percent. A backlog of 10 to 15 percent is considered manageable from a funding point of view. Backlogs approaching 20 percent and above tend to become unmanageable, unless aggressively checked through larger rehabilitation programs.

Recent efforts in the State Legislature have stalled to provide a stable funding source for local street and state highway maintenance and rehabilitation. A broad coalition of cities, counties, labor, business and transportation advocates has formed, called Fix Our Roads, to meet the Governor's call to address California's chronic transportation infrastructure funding shortfall. If additional funding isn't secured now, it will cost taxpayers twice as much to fix the local system in the future.

A resolution from the City of Long Beach to the Governor and Legislature will add our city's voice to the urgent call for the state to make a significant investment in transportation infrastructure. A draft resolution is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact with the resolution, but a positive action by the Governor and Legislature could have a significant positive fiscal impact for the City.

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO PROVIDE NEW SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. has called an extraordinary session to address the immense underfunding of California's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties own and operate more than 81 percent of streets and roads in California, and from the moment we open our front door to drive to work, bike to school, or walk to the bus station, people are dependent upon a safe, reliable local transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach has participated in efforts with the California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, and California's Regional Transportation Planning Agencies to study unmet funding needs for local roads and bridges, including sidewalks and other essential components; and

WHEREAS, the resulting 2014 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, which provides critical analysis and information on the local transportation network's condition and funding needs, indicates that the condition of the local transportation network is deteriorating as predicted in the initial 2008 study; and

WHEREAS, the results show that California's local streets and roads are on a path of significant decline. On a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent), the statewide average pavement condition index (PCI) is 66, placing it in the "at risk" category where pavements will begin to deteriorate much more rapidly and require rehabilitation or rebuilding rather than more cost-effective preventative maintenance if funding is not increased; and

WHEREAS, the results show that the City of Long Beach's local streets have a statewide average pavement index of 60, placing them in the "Fair/Good" category; and

WHEREAS, the current backlog for street repairs is 20 percent, and studies show that backlogs approaching 20 percent and above tend to become unmanageable, unless aggressively checked through larger rehabilitation programs; and

WHEREAS, if funding remains at the current levels, in 10 years, 25 percent of local streets and roads in California will be in "failed" condition; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties need an additional \$1.7 billion just to maintain a status quo pavement condition of 66, and much more revenue to operate the system with Best Management Practices, which would reduce the total amount of funding needed for maintenance in the future; and

WHEREAS, models show that an additional \$3 billion annual investment in the local streets and roads system is expected to improve pavement conditions statewide from an average "at risk" condition to an average "good" condition; and

WHEREAS, if additional funding isn't secured now, it will cost taxpayers twice as much to fix the local system in the future, as failure to act this year will increase unmet funding needs for local transportation facilities by \$11 billion in five years and \$21 billion in ten years; and

WHEREAS, modernizing the local street and road system provides well-paying construction jobs and boosts local economies; and

WHEREAS, the local street and road system is also critical for farm to market needs, interconnectivity, multimodal needs, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, police, fire, and emergency medical services all need safe reliable roads to react quickly to emergency calls and a few minutes of delay can be a matter of life and death; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and preserving the local street and road system in good condition will reduce drive times and traffic congestion, improve bicycle safety, and make the pedestrian experience safer and more appealing, which leads to reduce vehicle emissions helping the State achieve its air quality and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals; and

WHEREAS, restoring roads before they fail also reduces construction time which results in less air pollution from heavy equipment and less water pollution from site run-off; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the local system, the state highway system needs an additional \$5.7 billion annually to address the state's deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in order to bring the local system back into a cost-effective condition, at least \$7.3 billion annually in new money going directly to cities and counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to identify a sufficient and stable funding source for local street and road and state highway maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure the safe and efficient mobility of the traveling public and the economic vitality of California.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the CITY OF LONG BEACH strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to adopt the following priorities for funding California's streets and roads.

1. **Make a significant investment in transportation infrastructure.** Any package should seek to raise at least \$6 billion annually and should remain in place for at least 10 years or until an alternative method of funding our transportation system is agreed upon.
2. **Focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the current system.** Repairing California's streets and highways involves much more than fixing potholes. It requires major road pavement overlays, fixing unsafe bridges, providing safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, replacing storm water culverts, as well as operational

improvements that necessitate the construction of auxiliary lanes to relieve traffic congestion choke points and fixing design deficiencies that have created unsafe merging and other traffic hazards. Efforts to supply funding for transit in addition to funding for roads should also focus on fixing the system first.

3. **Equal split between state and local projects.** We support sharing revenue for roadway maintenance equally (50/50) between the state and cities and counties, given the equally-pressing funding needs of both systems, as well as the longstanding historical precedent for collecting transportation user fees through a centralized system and sharing the revenues across the entire network through direct subventions. Ensuring that funding to local governments is provided directly, without intermediaries, will accelerate project delivery and ensure maximum accountability.
4. **Raise revenues across a broad range of options.** Research by the California Alliance for Jobs and Transportation California shows that voters strongly support increased funding for transportation improvements. They are much more open to a package that spreads potential tax or fee increases across a broad range of options, including fuel taxes, license fees, and registration fees, rather than just one source. Additionally, any package should move California toward an all-users pay structure, in which everyone who benefits from the system contributes to maintaining it – from traditional gasoline-fueled vehicles, to new hybrids or electric vehicles, to commercial vehicles.
5. **Invest a portion of diesel tax and/or cap & trade revenue to high-priority goods movement projects.** While the focus of a transportation funding package should be on maintaining and rehabilitating the existing system, California has a critical need to upgrade the goods movement infrastructure that is essential to our economic well-being. Establishing a framework to make appropriate investments in major goods movement arteries can lay the groundwork for greater investments in the future that will also improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. **Strong accountability requirements to protect the taxpayers' investment.** Voters and taxpayers must be assured that all transportation revenues are spent responsibly. Local governments are accustomed to employing transparent processes for selecting road maintenance projects aided by pavement management systems, as well as reporting on the expenditure of transportation funds through the State Controller's Local Streets and Roads Annual Report.
7. **Provide Consistent Annual Funding Levels.** Under current statute, the annual gas tax adjustment by the Board of Equalization is creating extreme fluctuations in funding levels – a \$900 million drop in this budget year alone. A transportation funding package should contain legislation that will create more consistent revenue projections and allow Caltrans and transportation agencies the certainty they need for longer term planning.