

January 24, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1 (Beall) – Transportation Funding and Reform Package
As introduced on August 24, 2016 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Beall,

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors writes in strong support of your SB 1 and to thank you for your continued perseverance and leadership in trying to address California's tremendous transportation infrastructure needs and keep our economy moving. Your work to continue to refine a transportation funding and reform proposal that takes elements of your concepts, Republican ideas on revenues and reforms, aspects of the Governor's transportation plan, and responds to input from your colleagues and stakeholders is critical to develop a comprehensive and robust bi-partisan solution.

While we appreciate the Governor's plan to allocate additional revenues to local streets and roads, the current proposal is about half as much revenue as the \$2.2 billion in new annual local streets and roads revenue that would be generated by SB 1, and far short of the needs of our community. The bill also includes as eligible projects road maintenance and rehabilitation, safety projects, railroad grade separations, and complete street components—including active transportation, pedestrian and bike safety projects, and transit facilities – and drainage and stormwater capture projects built in conjunction with any other allowable project. Funding from the bill could also be used as matching funds for state and federal funding programs.

Outside of the revenue provisions, SB 1 includes strong accountability measures, including a local maintenance of effort requirement and project-level reporting to the California Transportation Commission. In terms of local project streamlining, the bill would expand an existing CEQA exemption available to small cities and counties for maintenance, rehabilitation and safety projects in the existing right-of-way to all local jurisdictions and the state, and create a transportation advanced mitigation program.

As you know, local governments have identified ten-year unmet needs of \$73 billion on the local streets and roads system in addition to \$59 billion in deferred maintenance on the state highway system. As roads deteriorate, they become increasingly expensive to repair. SB 1 will

make investments significant enough to improve California's local streets and roads, and reduce future burdens on taxpayers.

Investing in our roads and highways, active transportation facilities, transit and key freight corridors through targeted and balanced increases in revenue will improve California's transportation facilities today, and save taxpayers money for the upkeep of this infrastructure tomorrow.

We look forward to working with you and legislative leadership and the Administration on their promise to successfully advance a meaningful transportation reform and funding package early in the 2017 legislative session.

For more information on our position, please do not hesitate contact me at 530-621-5105.

Sincerely,

Shiva Frentzen, Chair
Board of Supervisors

c. The Honorable Ted Gaines