

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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March 21, 2017

The Honorable Vince Fong
State Capitol, Suite #4144
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: El Dorado County's Transportation

Dear Assemblyman Fong,

On behalf of El Dorado County, I would like to thank you for your work on making transportation funding a priority during this legislative session. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors support this urgent discussion on transportation. However, the Board believes that any solution to the transportation problem should be long-term and provide sustainable funding which supports the current and future transportation needs of rural California counties. To accomplish these goals, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors support the following transportation funding principles:

Protect, Reliable and Sufficient Transportation Funding

- Index transportation revenues to inflation
- Stabilize transportation funding to address capital and maintenance investment needs
- Restore truck weight fees - \$.5 billion to support local streets and roads
- Repay past transportation fund loans made to the General Fund – \$706 million
- Invest Cap and Trade revenues in GHG reducing road maintenance, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and freight projects
- Ensure that non-gas/diesel vehicle owners pay their fair share of roadway capital investment and maintenance
- Identify efficiencies within Caltrans and streamline the environmental process for maintenance, emergency, and rehabilitation projects
- Evaluate long-term equitable transportation funding sources like the Road Charge Pilot Program

Reforms

- Environmental exemptions for safety, maintenance, and other projects within existing rights of way, that are consistent with local, regional and state priorities
- Reestablish the California Transportation Commission as a stand-alone agency
- Provide methods to better address the transportation needs of rural communities such as El Dorado County

Recommendations

- Reconsider a formula distribution for transportation funding to take into account the user population of a given system versus only the resident population to ensure more equitable return to source and equitable cost sharing to maintain and operate the system
- Ensure transportation funding is protected in perpetuity through a constitutional amendment

Since Fiscal Year 2013-14, El Dorado County has seen a 35 percent decrease in gas tax revenue. This lack of funding has contributed to making it difficult to fund transportation related maintenance, emergency repairs, and planning for the future. Without a solution this legislative session, it will be challenging for the County to maintain its roads let alone repair that roads that were affected by the winter storms.

I would like to thank you again for all your help in making transportation funding a priority this session. El Dorado County is ready to work with you to find solutions to this issue. If you have any questions about El Dorado County's transportation funding principles please contact Creighton Avila with the El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office at 530-621-5153 or at Creighton.avila@edcgov.us.

Shiva Frentzen
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc:
Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors