As a (County Supervisor/City Councilmember,) one of the most important things I do is help our community set priorities. What should local government be working on? Right now, one of the most urgent priorities we have is also one of the most mundane; potholes. It’s a little more complicated than that, but the poor condition of our local streets, roads, and bridges has become a critical problem right here in (City/County.)

If you drive on our local roads much at all, you know what I’m talking about. (add in a local example here: For example, ABC Avenue between Elm and Oak Streets is in such bad shape it probably needs to be completely resurfaced, not just patched up.) But just in case you need more proof, a recent report – the *2016 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment (2016 Report)*– details the poor condition of the local road system throughout the state. Only six of California’s 58 counties in the state have an overall “good” pavement condition. All the rest are in an “at risk” or “poor” condition. And the 2016 Report, [available online here](http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org/), shows the rate of decline is accelerating. Our roads are getting worse, fast!

Here in (your City/County), the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) comes in at (\_\_) on a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent), putting us (\_\_) in the state for worst roads. It’s not a ranking we can be proud of, but this is more than just a number. Poorly maintained roads mean we all pay about $700 a year more to repair our cars and trucks from damage driving on bumpy roads. There are impacts on the economy, too, in lost jobs and higher costs to move goods from place to place. And bad roads are more dangerous for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Moreover, time spent in our cars navigating our congested pothole-filled roads means less time with family and friends and a reduced overall quality of life, as well as adverse impacts to our air quality and environment.

Not to mention that it costs less to maintain roads than it does to rebuild them. The longer we wait to fix them, the more it will cost to bring them back into decent shape. How has this happened? Between inflation and stagnant revenue for local transportation, we have about half as much money as we had in 1994 to maintain the local transportation system. Making matters worse, while we’ve improved fuel economy of our cars and trucks (which is critical from an environmental perspective), it means that people are paying less to use the transportation system. Add in population growth over the decades and were using the system more for less than ever before. The decline in funding has led to a backlog of deferred maintenance projects, and our roads are in far worse condition.

{{{IF there is a transportation funding measure on the local November ballot, include this paragraph}}}

We have transportation funding on our local ballot this election. Measure \_\_\_ will help our local transportation system, but the revenue from this measure is not aimed at just fixing our existing local streets roads and bridges. In fact, most of the Measure \_\_\_ revenue is earmarked for (transit, specific projects, etc.) I urge you to support Measure \_\_\_, but it alone is not the answer to our transportation issues.

That is why I am joining local government leaders from around California in urging the State Legislature and Governor to act quickly to increase revenue to maintain local streets, roads, and bridges. Several plans have been floated to do this, and the latest ideas include some common-sense reforms to streamline projects and also guarantee that any new money will be spent, as intended, on transportation.

But this needs to be a priority and I am asking (local Assembly Members/State Senators) to work proactively with his/her/their colleagues to pass meaningful legislation before the on-going Special Session on Transportation and Infrastrcure Development comes to a close on November 30. The longer we wait, the more it will cost, and in the meantime, our local streets, roads and bridges continue to crumble. If your roof was leaking, fixing it before it did additional damage to your house would be a top priority. I am urging our state lawmakers to fix our crumbling roads before the damage gets worse and the costs go even higher.