**2012 LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**SAMPLE TWEETS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**SAMPLE TWEETS**

New study shows majority of CA local streets and roads at risk. We either pay for repairs now or pay a lot more later. [www.savecaliforniastreets.org](http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org)

CA local streets and roads are in crisis. There’s a clear choice: create new funding to pay for repairs now or pay more later. [www.savecaliforniastreets.org](http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org)

New report shows fixing CA local roads now protects taxpayer investment, creates #jobs, reduces pollution, and saves money. [www.savecaliforniastreets.org](http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org)

CA's #transportation to-dos: repair roads now to create #jobs and avert costly repairs later. [www.savecaliforniastreets.org](http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org)

#Fixitfirst in California: investing in local streets and roads now will save $ later while fueling #cajobs. [www.savecaliforniastreets.org](http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org)

**SAMPLE Letters to the Editor** (200 word maximum)

State Elected or Transportation Stakeholder:

The recently released 2012 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment is a wake up call. The state’s local roads are deteriorating at a rapid rate, putting users and our entire transportation system at risk. State and local governments must invest in repairs and maintenance now, or face much more expensive replacement costs later, jeopardizing California’s fragile economy. The Needs Assessment shows a steady downward trend in pavement condition since the initial analysis in 2008; if we do nothing to improve the funding outlook, a quarter of the streets and roads in California will be in “failed” condition in ten years. We need to double the current funding level just to maintain the status quo, and pavement conditions in a majority of California counties are already below standard. Californians will need to work together to find new sources of revenue to fix our failing roads, and in doing so we will protect taxpayer investment, create new jobs, reduce pollution, and save money in the long-term. Most importantly, we’ll keep our streets and roads safe for California families, businesses, and law enforcement. We simply cannot afford to ignore this problem.

Local Elected or Transportation Stakeholder:

The 2012 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment is a wake up call for XX County. The report shows a clear choice; we can either pay to fix and maintain our streets and roads now, or pay much more in the future to replace them. More than twice the current funding level is needed just to maintain current pavement conditions, which are below standard in a majority of California counties (including XXX (if applicable). When making this choice, we must also consider public safety. From the moment we open our front door to drive to work, bike to school, or walk to the bus station, we are dependent upon local streets and roads. Police, fire and emergency medical services all need safe reliable roads to react quickly. Repairs to local roadways are more than just fixing potholes; they include improvements for sidewalks, stormwater control, gutters, curb ramps, traffic signs and medians, all of which make our roads safer. All Californians must work together to find ways to fund our local streets and roads, and push state and local governments to establish sustainable transportation revenues. It will make our community, and all of California, a better place to live.

Bicyclist

As someone who uses my bicycle more than my car, I was interested in the new pavement assessment of California’s local streets and roads. More than once I’ve nearly gone head over handlebars trying to dodge a pothole – or a car that was swerving to avoid one. Everyone who uses our local streets should be concerned about their growing disrepair, along with the bridges, sidewalks and curbs that are part of the local roads network. If we use them – and just about everyone in the community does - we should also be willing to pay for their upkeep. Reliable, well-maintained local streets and roads increase the safety and livability of our neighborhoods, and are important whether you’re young or old, on foot or in a car, riding a bicycle, using a wheelchair or on the bus. According to the data in the report, we have a choice to either pay now or pay more later when conditions have deteriorated even further. If it’s between a smooth, safe ride or a bone-rattling obstacle course, the choice is clear: fix our roads now, save money, and get home in one piece.

Resident:

The new report that shows the poor condition of that California’s local streets and roads hits home, here in XXX County. I’m hard pressed to think of a single activity in my family’s daily life that doesn’t depend on a local street, whether it’s driving to work, walking to the store, or my kid’s bike ride to school. Besides the safety concerns and the wear and tear on my car, we need to consider the bottom line; if we don’t deal with the backlog of repair and maintenance now, it’s going to cost twice as much to fix down the line. It just makes sense to so protect an investment that taxpayers have already made, and keep our local streets and roads in good shape now so we don’t pay for our negligence later.

*The full report can be downloaded at*: <http://www.savecaliforniastreets.org>