

**2018 LSR Needs Assessment Report  
City and County Toolkit: Sample Press Release**

October [insert date], 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** [insert contact name & telephone]

**2018 Report Confirms New Transportation Funding Will Improve Condition  
of California's Local Streets and Roads**

*Cities and Counties Can Reduce Funding Shortfall for Local Transportation  
Network by \$18.4 Billion Over Next Decade*

**City / County** — The *2018 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Report* (2018 Report) was released this week and confirms previous report predictions: with new dedicated funding, cities and counties can improve the local street and road system and provide Californians with safer and more efficient transportation options. Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE), the engineering firm that conducted the study, found that, thanks to a new infusion of funding for transportation infrastructure, cities and counties have already begun to arrest the historical deterioration that has occurred on the local transportation network and will be able reduce the funding shortfall by \$18.4 billion over the next decade.

The 2018 Report underscores the urgent need for California to maintain existing levels of dedicated transportation funding or risk continued decline of the state's transportation system. The analysis conducted by NCE concluded that if transportation funding is reduced to less than existing levels, the local street and road system will once again be in crisis: the funding shortfall will grow by at least \$12 billion for pavement repairs alone and the number of roads in failed condition will increase to nearly 30% in the next decade. The full assessment can be found at [www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org](http://www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org).

The most significant take away of the 2018 Report is that with the infusion of new revenues from The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB1), cities and counties are beginning to stabilize the average condition of local roads, and will be able to lift a significant percentage of the network from "at-risk" into "good" condition. This revenue also enables cities and counties to make life-saving safety improvements; employ technological efficiencies that reduce the cost of future repairs; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants; and expand pedestrian, bicycle and transit access and opportunities.

"The local road system is the backbone of California life and our economy," stated [insert name and title of city/county Public Works Director or other spokesperson] "Our state and local economies rely on an efficient network of roads and bridges for the safe movement of people and goods. Here in

**2018 LSR Needs Assessment Report  
City and County Toolkit: Sample Press Release**

[city/county], more than [XX] number of road improvement projects will be in jeopardy if funding is eliminated, including [insert names of a few important/visible local projects]. Road conditions will continue to deteriorate, risking the safety of our drivers and residents.” *\*\*[or replace with original quote for your local city/county]*

California has dealt with a shortfall of funding to maintain local streets, roads, and bridges for many years. Without these essential revenues, the system will fall into an even greater state of disrepair and cost Californians billions of dollars more in the long run.

The analysis conducted by NCE found that the statewide average pavement condition, measured on a scale of 0 (failed) to 100 (excellent), is a 65, which is considered “at-risk.” Some areas of the state have an average pavement condition as low as a 37, squarely in the “failed” condition. The ideal road score is an 85 as it is the most cost-effective condition in which to maintain a road and which saves taxpayers money. The 2018 Report warns that if transportation funding is cut, the average road condition would drop a full 8 points to a score of 57, creeping more closely to a “poor” statewide average condition. The lower the score, the more expensive the repairs become.

The 2018 Report marks 10 years since the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties® began releasing the biennial study to assess the condition of the state’s local transportation network. The city street and county road system makes up 85 percent of California’s roadways and provides the backbone of the statewide transportation system.

The League and CSAC collaborated on the assessment along with the state’s regional transportation planning agencies. The 2018 Report surveyed California’s 58 counties and 482 cities and captured data from more than 99 percent of the state’s local streets and roads.

Visitors to [www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org](http://www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org) will find an interactive map showing the street and road condition for every California county and city.

###