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Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins Announces Transportation Funding Proposal
Transportation Leaders Meet in Sacramento to Discuss Priorities

Today in Sacramento, transportation leaders from across California and across the nation gathered at the California Transportation Foundation to discuss priorities and new transportation proposals. Several themes were evident throughout the day: our transportation system and funding systems are broke, technology is quickly moving the transportation world forward, and without additional investment, California's economy will suffer. *For more, see Page 2.*



Webinar: How to get Cap-and-Trade Funds

Join state agency presenters, the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for a webinar being held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon to help local governments apply for a portion of up to \$120 million in Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program funds. *For more, see Page 2.*



Feb. 10 Hearing Planned on Water Bond Implementation

The Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife will be holding an oversight hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 10 to discuss the implementation of Proposition 1 (2014), the Water Bond. The hearing will commence after a 9:30 a.m. bill hearing and will cover background on the bond, state entities with proposed Prop. 1 funding and stakeholder recommendations. More information can be found on the [committee webpage](#).

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Wrapping up the conference, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) announced a [proposal](#) to increase transportation investment by \$2 billion annually. The Assembly proposal would impose a Road User Fee (not to be confused with the [Road Usage Charge demonstration project](#) meant to replace the gas tax) to:

- \$1 billion per year by returning truck Weight Fees to transportation instead of using them to repay general obligation debt;
- \$200 million per year for transportation funding by accelerating repayment of transportation loans; and
- \$800 million per year in new net funds for transportation.

There have been several proposals to shift weight fees back to pay-as-you-go projects in the past. Those projects were unable to garner support from Governor Brown's Administration because they had a \$1 billion impact to the state's General Fund. Speaker Atkins answers that concern by designating a funding source.

Cities may remember that they have not been traditional recipients of weights fees. However, several recent proposals have included requirements for cities and counties to receive part of the funding. Details regarding allocations are not yet available for Speaker Atkins proposal, but the League will be following up with her office to begin that discussion.

Several other speakers also made comments that may be of interest to cities:

- Senator Jim Beall, chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, said that funding must be the priority. He stressed that while we are in a period of transition on how transportation is paid for, it is not feasible to wait four to five years for those changes to be in place. California, he believes, must act now to avoid even higher taxes and fees in the future. With any increase in funding, California must also implement accountability measures for Caltrans and other agencies using transportation funding. Sen. Beall said that if these two steps are not quickly taken, California's basic economy is threatened.
- Assembly Member Frazier, chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee said that the transportation community has lost its focus, and that voters have lost their faith as a result. He called on the transportation community and the state to give CalTrans a clear and achievable objective, fund that objective, and get out of the way.
- Gregory Nadeau, acting administrator of the Federal Highway Administration discussed the need for the next federal transportation reauthorization to include additional investments. He also noted that US Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx was recently in California to share his vision of the next 30 years in transportation and his new initiative [Beyond Transportation 2045](#). Through the initiative he invites the public to have a discussion about what the transportation system should look like in 30 years.
- Several speakers discussed the benefits and disadvantages of self-help counties. There are currently 20 counties in California that have local transportation measures. Successful campaigns point to the fact that local measures deliver on their promises, something the state needs to work on. However, speakers were concerned about an over-reliance on local measures because there are some areas of the state that will never support tax increases. An over-reliance will lead to a transportation system of the "haves" and "have-nots."

'Webinar' Continued from Page 1...

Webinar speakers include:

- Allison Joe, deputy director, Strategic Growth Council;
- Eugene Lee, section chief, Division of Financial Assistance, Department of Housing and Community Development; and
- Jennifer Seeger, housing policy manager, Department of Housing and Community Development.

AHSC will fund projects that achieve greenhouse gas reductions by increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers and key destinations via low-carbon transportation options,

like walking, biking and transit. Half of the program’s funding must be used for affordable housing; half must benefit disadvantaged communities. **Concept proposals are due Feb. 19.**

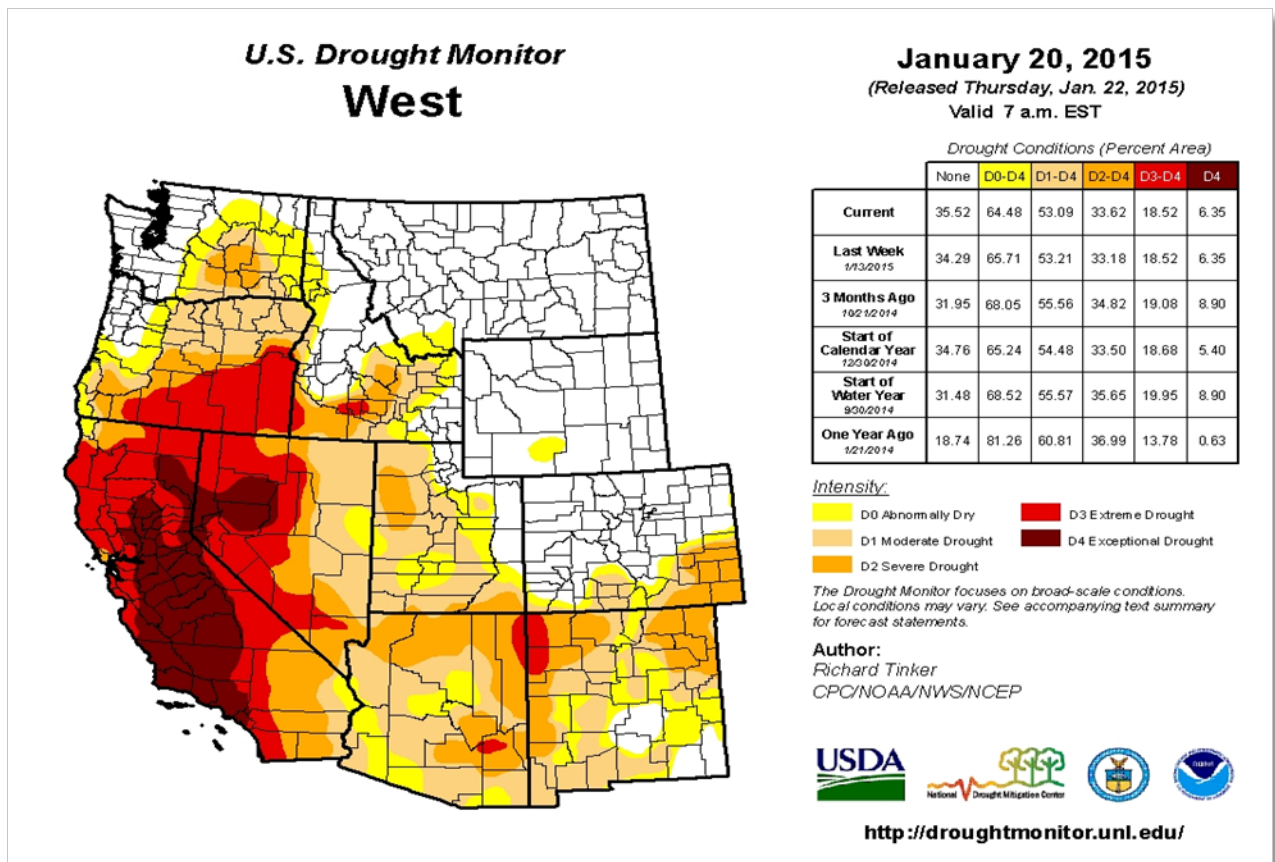
Please register [online](#) for this webinar no later than Feb. 9. Cost to participate is free for League and CSAC members and partners; \$100 for non-members. For registration questions, please contact [Megan Dunn](#). Registrants should use their agency email address when registering for the webinar in order to avoid a charge.

Cities Encouraged to Complete National League of Cities Survey to Improve Water Infrastructure and Policy

The recent droughts in many parts of the Western United States have raised the importance of local water policy and the urgent need to improve water infrastructure. The National League of Cities (NLC), in partnership with the American Water Works Association, the Walton Family Foundation, and WaterNow, is gathering information about how municipal leaders interact with their local water service providers.

If you have any involvement or interest in your local water policy, please take a few minutes to [complete this survey](#).

Your response will help NLC and its partners better understand the level of knowledge and engagement among municipal leaders, at any level of expertise. The information gathered will help create new programs and resources that are more useful in your city and strengthen NLC’s advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.



If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Cooper Martin](#), program director of the Sustainable Cities Institute. NLC would like to thank cities for participating in this survey.

Note: This data will not be used for marketing purposes and personal information will not be shared with any third party.
