



Aug. 10, 2015

Coalition Supporting Transportation Investments Convenes Press Briefing to Outline Proposal

Seeking \$6 Billion Annually to Support State and Local Streets, Roads and Highways

Members of the Capitol Press Corps gathered this morning at the League of California Cities® for a briefing from Fix Our Roads, a broad coalition representing local government, transportation, business and labor that supports increased funding for transportation. The coalition formed in July with Gov. Jerry Brown's calling of the special session on transportation in conjunction with the budget deal he reached in late June with legislators. The coalition seeks \$6 billion annually, split equally between the state and local governments, over the next decade.

California's network of roads and highways are deteriorating rapidly. In fact, California has the second highest share of roads in "poor condition" nationally and 58 percent of state roads need rehabilitation or pavement maintenance. Our state is also home to four of the five cities ranked with the worst road conditions in the nation. California local streets and roads face a \$78 billion shortfall in deferred maintenance, \$7.8 billion annually. CalTrans faces a \$59 billion backlog in deferred maintenance and \$5.7 billion annual shortfall in the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

[The Fix Our Roads Coalition](#) believes that a legislative solution should be reached during the special session that results in a robust and meaningful dent in California's transportation funding shortfall. This critical issue must be addressed immediately with the state's road system continuing to deteriorate as inadequate funding to deal with deficiencies creates safety hazards, costs motorists time and money, and leaves California stuck in gridlock. In the coming weeks, the coalition will engage in meetings in the Capitol and district offices, legislative hearings, and roundtable events throughout California.

Monday's press briefing was well attended with representatives from California's largest news outlets, including:

- *Associated Press*;
- Bloomberg News;
- Bay Area News Group/*San Jose Mercury News*;
- Capitol Public Radio;
- Capitol Television News Service;
- *Los Angeles Times*;
- Los Angeles News Group;
- *Orange County Register*;
- *Sacramento Bee*;
- *Sacramento Business Journal*; and
- *Street Blog California*; and
- *Tax Analysts*.

During Monday's briefing, reporters had an opportunity to hear details on the coalition proposal and talk with coalition members including, League Executive Director Chris McKenzie, California State Association of Counties Executive Director Matt Cate and California Alliance for Jobs Executive Consultant Jim Earp.

McKenzie stressed that California's roadway system, freeways, major urban thoroughfares, residential streets and rural roads are all connected. "This matter is urgent and we're glad the Governor called a special session. This is an issue that impacts every Californian in some way. Drivers in California want something done about our road."

Cate spoke about the work that has been done. “There are already ideas on the table from both sides of the aisle and the Governor has his own ideas. To our coalition what makes sense are small increases in several taxes and fees that represent a user-pay system that is fair and accountable.”

Earp remarked, “Our plan is prudent. We’re talking about fixing the existing system and just playing catch up before building anything new.”

Resources

The Fix Our Roads Coalition is using the internet and social media to reach the legislators, the public and the press about California’s road infrastructure crisis. A new website, www.FixCARoads.com, will serve as the hub along with the Twitter handle [@FixCARoads](https://twitter.com/FixCARoads) and Facebook page www.facebook.com/FixCARoads. Dynamic ads also began running today on several online news outlets including [Fox and Hounds](#), [Rough and Tumble](#), [The Roundup](#), [The Capitol Morning Report](#) and [The Nooner](#).

Seven Principles

Complete detail on each of the seven principles is available at www.FixCARoads.com.

1. Make a significant investment in transportation infrastructure;
2. Focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the current system;
3. Invest a portion of diesel tax and/or cap & trade revenue to high-priority goods movement projects;
4. Raise revenues across a broad range of options;
5. Equal split between state and local projects;
6. Strong accountability requirements to protect the taxpayers’ investment; and
7. Provide Consistent Annual Funding Levels.

Coalition Members

The coalition supporting Fix California Roads continues to grow daily. New members are being added to the list at www.FixCARoads.com. As of Aug. 10, the coalition comprises the following members:

Local Government

- League of California Cities
- California State Association of Counties
- Rural County Representatives of California
- California Association of Councils of Government
- California Contract Cities Association
- California Rural Counties Task Force
- North State Super Region
- The Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority
- City of Ventura
- City of Gilroy
- City of Lakewood
- City of Paramount
- City of Palos Verdes Estates
- City of Crescent City
- Mayor Larry Forester, city of Signal Hill
- Mayor James Goodhart, city of Palos Verdes Estates
- Vice Mayor Jeff Wieler, city of Piedmont

Business

- California Chamber of Commerce

- California Business Roundtable
- California Business Properties Association
- California Building Industry Association
- American Council of Engineering Companies – California
- Associated General Contractors of California
- United Contractors
- California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
- The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- East Bay Leadership Council
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- NAIOP CA, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
- Orange County Business Council
- Caterpillar
- C.C. Myers, Inc.
- DeSilva Gates Construction
- Ghilotti Bros., Inc.
- Granite Construction Co.
- Mountain Cascade
- Solar Turbines

Transportation

- Transportation California
- Solano Transportation Authority

Labor

- State Building and Construction Trades of California
- California Alliance for Jobs
- Operating Engineers Local 3
- Engineering Contractors Association
- Northern California District Council of Laborers
- Northern California Carpenters Regional Council
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 36