



Oct. 23, 2015
Issue #95

Initial Transportation Conference Committee Hearings Held
City and County Needs Spotlighted

The first two hearings of the Conference Committee of the First Extraordinary Session (Transportation) were held on Friday, Oct. 16 in Sacramento and Wednesday, Oct. 21 in Ontario. *For more, see Page 2.*



2015 Legislative Briefing Webinar to be Held Nov. 17
Register by Nov. 16

Please join League lobbyists for the annual Legislative Briefing webinar, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 10-11:30 a.m. *For more, see Page 2.*



Informational Hearing on Homelessness in California Convened

The Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing on Oct. 22 convened an informational hearing Thursday in Los Angeles on California's growing homeless population. Sen. Jim Beall (D-San José) chaired the committee with Sen. Carol Liu (D-La Canada Flintridge), who is not a committee member, participating in the hearing. *For more, see Page 2.*

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California Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly kicked off the hearings by presenting the [transportation funding framework](#) proposed last month. The Legislative Analyst's Office also presented an [overview](#) of all the proposals presented thus far in the special session. The conferees then heard from a variety of stakeholder groups including the League, California Alliance for Jobs, Orange County Business Association.

Transportation needs of cities and counties received a significant chunk of time during the second hearing in Ontario. Ontario City Council Member Alan Wapner opened the hearing by welcoming the legislative panel to Ontario and talking about the status of transportation projects in the city and surrounding region. League President and city of Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael represented the League and led a panel of local government representatives that included County of Riverside Supervisor John Benoit, city of Hemet Mayor Linda Krupa, and city of Lakewood Public Works Director Lisa Rapp.

While each panelist focused on the needs in their community, the overall message was united. There is a great need for additional investment in transportation maintenance and preservation, and without immediate action the problem will continue to worsen. Recognizing that many legislators are focused on reforms and streamlining in addition to funding, Ms. Rapp focused her remarks on what city and county public works are doing already to use every dollar wisely.

Now that the hearings have wrapped up, conference committee members will resume negotiations among themselves. Cities should continue to contact their legislators to stress the importance of immediate action to provide additional funding.

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During this year's Legislative Briefing, League lobbyists will discuss developments from the first year of the 2015-16 Legislative Session. Participants will hear the latest on medical marijuana regulation, transportation, economic development, land use, water, employee relations bills, and several other important legislative developments affecting the state and local governments.

The registration cost for League members and partners is \$25. For non-members, the cost is \$125 per city. Register [online](#) by noon on Monday, Nov. 16. Two connections per city will be allowed.

For questions on how to register for the webinar, please contact [Megan Dunn](#). For all other questions, please contact [Meg Desmond](#).

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[Thursday's hearing](#) focused on a range of topics related to identifying proven solutions to address homelessness. Representatives from local, state and the federal government testified along with housing advocates and former homeless people. The hearing discussed the growing problem of homelessness in California especially with Los Angeles' infamous skid row highlighted. Committee members and other participants examined models to address chronic homelessness, as well as some possible solutions.

Given the tenor of the hearing, it appears that homelessness will be at the forefront when the Legislature convenes for the second half its 2015-16 Legislative Session. Sen. Beall and Sen. Liu will likely engage in legislative efforts to address the problem.