

MAP-21 REAUTHORIZATION: INVEST IN AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

California, home to more than 38 million people, has more than 45,000 miles of highway and one of the most developed transit systems in the nation. California's cities and counties are responsible for administering the 143,000 miles of local streets and roads that connect with the state and federal highways within this system. As Congress considers the reauthorization of the nation's transportation laws, the League of California Cities, which represents California's 482 cities, encourages you to take bold and immediate action to increase investment in the country's transportation system. California, and the nation, is on the brink of major catastrophe.

The 2014 California Local Street and Road Needs Assessment held alarming conclusions. Pavements alone face a backlog of \$40 billion that will grow to \$51 billion in a very short five years without additional investment. In ten years, it is projected that 25% of California's local streets and roads will be in failed condition. The findings on bridges were equally alarming. Forty-seven percent of local bridges in California are older than the average lifespan of a bridge (50 years).

In particular, the League encourages you to:

- **Protect and Expand Transportation Revenues:**
 - Ensure robust funding is available to support current and future federal, state and local transportation priorities by maintaining the solvency of core funding mechanisms for transportation.
 - Identify new funding streams capable of supporting future transportation needs.
- **Maintaining and Improving Existing Transportation System Infrastructure:**
 - Make reconstruction and preservation of the existing system a high priority for expenditures; and target funds for maintenance to local agencies, which are charged with administering the system.
 - Provide incentives and resources to support and encourage local and regional transportation and land use planning that takes into consideration housing and economic development strategies as well as energy and water conservation to reduce congestion, increase mobility and community access, improve air quality and public health and create jobs.
 - Organize a framework that fully utilizes a federal, state and local partnership to develop multi-modal transportation solutions to reduce congestion, streamline transportation project delivery and integrate transportation planning solutions for the nation's highway, rail, air and port freight systems to achieve more efficient goods movement.

- **Streamlining the Regulatory and Project Delivery Process:**
 - Local agencies should be given self-certification authority for project implementation, including compliance with right-of-way and environmental procedures.
 - Where a state environmental process, like California's Environmental Quality Act, can be shown to be equivalent to, or more stringent than, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the state process should be certified for use in lieu of NEPA.
 - Where federal and state agencies must review a project for compliance with their regulatory scheme, strict timelines for completion of review should be enacted, and provision made for concurrent review, particularly by federal agencies.

- **Focus on Safety**
 - Increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.
 - Restore the Highway Bridge Program which, prior to MAP-21, provided a dedicated source of funding for all eligible bridges.