



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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May 28, 2015

Honorable XXXXXX
District x, U.S. House of Representatives
XXXX (Room #, Building Name)
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman XXXX:

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments is writing to request your urgent attention to passing a long-term the Transportation Infrastructure funding bill. Although Map-21 was extended over the Memorial Day weekend for the 33rd time through July 31st, the two-month extension once again merely patches a bald and flat tire. The federal gasoline and diesel taxes that provide most of the financing were last increased in 1993, a shortfall made worse because Americans are driving more fuel-efficient vehicles and are buying less gasoline than they once did.

We believe that definitive bi-partisan Congressional action is needed during the next two months to support and enact a transportation bill that provides a long-term transportation funding (4-6 years based upon past precedent) that will allow our cities and counties predictability in planning and delivering vital infrastructure investments).

We make this urgent request because the national highway system and our South Bay roads are crumbling. The US has fallen from #1 to #17 in the world in infrastructure investment (Investment as a percentage of the GDP-Gross National Product). Congestion causes our workers, residents, and goods to market over \$124 billion a year in lost productivity due to a system that has not kept pace with the world. Our ability to export goods to other countries, transport goods within the national system as well as get goods to market within our communities is significantly impaired due to more than 2,000 bridges in Southern California that do not meet federal safety standards.

In addition to providing the appropriate federal funding share of critical highway and transit system improvements, we believe the new reauthorization legislation should support a dedicated freight federal funding program as part of the national system. Freight plays an everyday role in our resident's and businesses by delivering the things they need. Because Southern California is an international gateway and key logistics link in the global supply chain, goods movement and logistic industries located in our communities account for 2.9 million jobs and are a significant economic driver. Independent economic experts have found that for every \$1 invested, there are \$5 in benefits including increased jobs, reduced congestion, reduced air pollution and increased mobility.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County voters have debunked the myth that residents and businesses do not benefit from transportation investment and will not support user fee based financing for improving the national system. Los Angeles County communities have increased sales taxes three times in the past three decades to increase transportation multi-modal solutions. In that same period, the federal gas tax rate has not been raised, not even once. Nineteen states have passed gas tax increases and 92% of those leaders who were courageous to support those efforts were re-elected.

The nation's international competitive future for the 21st Century is dependent on Congress taking action and passing a long term transportation bill that includes a dedicated federal freight funding program. The economic vitality of our communities, business and residents depends on your support and leadership to enact a long-term federal transportation funding bill.

Please consider the generations to come and our shared federal, state, and local role in providing a legacy of a strong economy and a quality of life. Together we can move America and the South Bay forward.

Sincerely,

James F. Goodhart, Chair
South Bay Cities Council of Governments