



**CALIFORNIA
ALLIANCE
FOR JOBS**



**Transportation
CALIFORNIA**



May 27, 2016

The Honorable Kevin de León
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jean Fuller
Minority Leader, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Chad Mayes
Minority Leader, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Budget Committees' Actions to Reject Without Prejudice the Governor's Transportation Plan

Dear Legislative Leaders:

The Fix Our Roads (FOR) Coalition, comprised of transportation industry organizations, local elected officials, local government associations, labor leaders, and business leaders, writes to urge your immediate action to reenergize the Transportation and Infrastructure Development Special Session. Further, we call on the Special Session Conference Committee to negotiate a bipartisan, comprehensive, and robust transportation reform and funding package. This request is particularly relevant and timely considering the recent actions both houses have taken in Budget Subcommittee hearings to reject without prejudice the Governor's Transportation Funding Plan and send the issue to Special Session. Without an active Transportation Special Session, the budget actions are tantamount to shutting down negotiations and over 18-months' worth of work and collaboration on this vital issue.

The elements of a bipartisan solution are already on the table, many of which have been introduced as bills into the Special Session. Republicans have called for reforms and the use of existing revenues. Democrats have championed proposals that include new revenues. Any final deal must include all of these elements in order to cost-effectively and efficiently reinvest in our transportation infrastructure and make a robust enough investment to deliver visible performance based improvements on streets, roads and highways to California's taxpayers. As you are aware, the FOR Coalition released a "Roadmap to Consensus" last week which drew from the most promising existing proposals including reforms, restoration of existing revenues, and modest tax increases to address our transportation

infrastructure crisis. We believe this effort provides the foundation for the work that lies ahead in the Special Session Conference Committee.

Transportation infrastructure is not a partisan issue. Every Californian feels the impacts of deficient infrastructure in one way or another – whether it’s in the “hidden tax” that each driver pays in additional car maintenance costs annually, the frustration of sitting in traffic to and from work every day, the higher costs Californians pay for goods and services, or the environmental impacts to our climate and ecosystem. Nor is this issue one that can wait any longer. Our organizations continue to hear chatter within the Legislature that 2016 is not the year to take up this issue. We heard similar sentiments in 2015. So we ask: Will 2017 be any different? We understand that transportation reform and funding decisions are challenging ones – but the longer we wait the more expensive and difficult it is to find a solution. For all of these reasons, we urge your immediate attention to this critical issue. Reinvigorate the Special Session. Empower the Conference Committee to negotiate a deal. Work with the Governor to get signed into law a reform and funding package that improves the safety and mobility of the traveling public, gets Californians back to work, improves our environment, and reinvests in our economy and our future.

Sincerely,



Will Kempton
Executive Director
Transportation California



Matt Cate
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties



Michael Quigley
Executive Director
California Alliance for Jobs



Chris McKenzie
Executive Director
League of California Cities



Thomas T. Holsman
Chief Executive Officer
Associated General Contractors of California



Jose Mejia
Director
California State Council of Laborers



Emily Cohen
Director of Governmental Affairs
United Contractors