



California State Association of Counties
CSAC PRIORITIES FOR MAP 21 REAUTHORIZATION

Approved by the CSAC Board of Directors February 20, 2014

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Increase Federal Revenues for Transportation Infrastructure

Without immediate, bold action by Congress, the Highway Trust Fund will continue to face insolvency. Existing federal revenues continue to fall short of meeting the funding needs to bring our nation's surface transportation infrastructure into the next century. Our future economic prosperity, our commitment to progressive environmental stewardship, and our dedication to the health, safety, and welfare of the traveling public and all Americans demands a significant reinvestment into the transportation network. **CSAC urges Congress to enhance revenues for investment in our national transportation infrastructure.**

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) – the unified voice of California's 58 counties – believes that until the funding issue is addressed, we will not make significant progress in improving our critical transportation infrastructure. California's counties and cities are facing an \$82 billion funding shortfall over the next ten-years for the maintenance and preservation of the local system, let alone other vital modal needs. On average, pavement conditions are "at risk" and without a surge of new revenue, 25-percent of California's local roads will be in failed condition by 2022. News article after news article discusses staggering figures about the condition of the nation's bridges – an estimated 8,000 bridges nationally are structurally deficient or fracture critical. In California, 950 bridges need replacement and over 1,800 are in need of rehabilitation.

The demands on our infrastructure are relentless – Californians log 300 million vehicle miles traveled annually, which is more than the current system was ever intended to accommodate. At the same time, our existing sources of revenue are declining due to necessary improvements in fuel economy and hybrid, electric, and alternative fuel vehicle technology. In order to address pressing environmental concerns, ranging from air quality and climate change to impacts on our water resources and energy demands, the nation must continue its work to advance technological improvements in fuel economy, alternative vehicles such as zero emissions vehicles, and reduce the amount people must drive to access work, school, home, services, and recreation. These challenges will only exacerbate our current funding dilemma.

CSAC's policy supports a variety of new revenues sources from increasing the federal gas tax to assessing a user fee that more accurately charges motorists for their use of the system than traditional revenues sources. Failing to address the severe funding issue within the next reauthorization effort will only negatively impact the condition of our system, our economy, our environment, and the overall quality of life for Americans. Increased revenue is our highest priority for MAP 21 reauthorization.

In addition to the preeminent priority of addressing the ongoing revenue shortfall, CSAC submits the following additional policy and programmatic priorities for consideration by Congress.

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Restore the Highway Bridge Program

- Provide dedicated revenue for on-system highway bridge projects, either by creating a set-aside similar to the off-system highway bridge set-aside or restoring the Highway Bridge Program as a core program. Increase dedicated funding for preventative maintenance on, and replacement of, bridges. This is a critical safety issue.

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Focus on Safety

- Increase funding for safety infrastructure projects on the existing transportation system.
- Programs/projects must be aimed at reducing the greatest number of fatalities regardless of ownership of the system.
- Ensure the rural road system, where fatality rates are the highest, retains dedicated funding.
- Promote and increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects and programs.

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Fix-it-First

- Provide increased funding for maintenance and preservation of the existing system. Reinvesting in the system now prevents exponentially higher costs down the road.

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Improve Environmental Stewardship & Address Climate Change

- Provide financial incentives to States that adopt and set greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and programs to accomplish those targets.
- Provide incentives in current programs and/or provide new funding sources for climate change neutral or friendly transportation projects and programs.
- Provide financial incentives for rural sustainability.
- Provide financial support for regional and countywide transportation planning processes that integrate transportation with local land use planning for the mutual benefit of GHG emissions reduction.
- Provide funding for retrofitting equipment and for alternate fuel infrastructure.

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Streamlining Project Delivery & Environmental Review

- Approve a state-federal environmental reciprocity pilot program.
- Support streamlining of federal regulations to facilitate more expeditious project delivery.
- Ensure that federal project oversight is commensurate to the amount of federal funding.

MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Increase Flexibility to Meet State, Regional, and Local Needs

- Maximize the use and flexibility of federal funds by not requiring minimum federal matches.
- Eliminate the need to program multiple phases for small projects.
- Eliminate need for TIP programming for air quality neutral projects.

CSAC MAP 21 Reauthorization Priority: Assistance for Data Collection

- Provide funding, training, tools, and uniform standards for the collection of roadway and traffic data specifically for the local and rural roadways.
- Provide assistance for data collection, and determining and quantifying GHG emissions, and other important data for addressing climate change through the analysis of various transportation plan alternatives in long-range transportation plans done in coordination with local land use plans.

For more information regarding these priorities and principles, please contact:

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