



February 28, 2024

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 955 (Seyarto) Office of Planning and Research: Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program
Notice of SUPPORT (2/22/2024)

Dear Senator Seyarto,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) are pleased to **support** your bill, SB 955, which would establish the Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program at the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to provide grants to assist cities and counties with infrastructure projects that offer communitywide benefits. This bill would also require the OPR to develop implementation guidelines and criteria for the program.

California is facing numerous infrastructure challenges, with many projects funded by local taxes remaining incomplete (often due to circumstances outside of the local government's control). Due to decades of changes to tax laws, local governments have seen a steady erosion of the tax base, causing many local governments to rely on a scarcity of revenue sources to complete local projects. Compounding the issue, the Governor's 2024-25 proposed budget includes solutions to balance the budget shortfall by reverting nearly \$2.7 billion in previously committed funds to state and local transportation projects. Subsequent delays to transportation funding for certain local projects would inadvertently disrupt local governments' ability to finance, plan, and implement major transportation improvements.

SB 955 would support cities and counties to plan and deliver on infrastructure projects that promote the health and safety of local communities by creating a framework for financing those projects through an appropriation by the Legislature. For these reasons, Cal Cities and CSAC supports SB 955. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at ltriffo@calcities.org or elawyer@counties.org.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Triffo".

Ben Triffo
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Lawyer".

Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties