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SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Member Agencies:
Benicia ♦ Dixon ♦ Fairfield ♦ Rio Vista ♦ Suisun City ♦ Vacaville ♦ Vallejo ♦ Solano County

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November 23, 2015

Erin Hannigan, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors
675 Texas St., Ste. 6500
Fairfield, CA 94534

RE: Request the Solano County Board of Supervisors Place a Countywide Measure on the June 2016 Ballot Providing Local Funding for Local Streets and Roads and Road Safety

Dear Chairperson Hannigan:

We are writing as the seven Mayors of Solano County and members of the Solano Transportation Authority's Board of Directors to request the Solano County Board of Supervisors consider placing a local measure on the ballot before Solano County's voters. The measure would request voter consideration of passage of a short-term (five years), general countywide half cent sales tax to provide local funding for Solano County's seven cities and the County to address critically needed maintenance of local streets and roads, road safety, and senior/disabled mobility needs.

Currently, 79% of the funding for our local streets and roads comes from the State Gas with local (14%) and federal (7%) funding sources collectively providing only 21% of the funding for our local streets and roads. Due to recent funding cuts by the State of California this year, Solano County's cities and the County will experience a 25%, or approximately $5 million, reduction in these state gas tax funds that are used to maintain and repair our aging local roads, which are already woefully unfunded, further reducing an already inadequate investment in our local streets and roads maintenance and safety and accelerating the continuing downward trend of the condition of our local streets and roads.

In 2014, the public works staff from the County and the seven cities, working in partnership with the Solano Transportation Authority (STA), developed the Solano 2014 Annual Pothole Report that documents and provides an inventory of the current status of Solano County's local streets and roads and the amount of available funds being dedicated on an annual basis to preserve the quality and safety of this important local infrastructure. In summary, the report identifies that Solano County's local streets and roads have an average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating of 64, which is only fair and projected to continue to worsen, and that the countywide local expenditure of $20.5 million for local streets and roads is $24 million short of the annual amount needed to just maintain Solano County's streets and road at a PCI rating of 60, barely fair, over the next 5 years.

As the road quality deteriorates, road safety is impacted. According to the STA's updated Solano Travel Safety Plan, each year, there are an annual average of 2,500 collisions on local Solano County roads resulting in an estimated 1,400 injuries and 37 fatalities.

In March of 2015, the STA conducted a public opinion poll of 400 Solano County voters regarding the relative importance of local streets and roads and other transportation priorities in relationship to other countywide priority issues. According to those surveyed, fixing and maintaining local streets and roads and road safety was one of three issues supported as a priority by over 70% of those surveyed (along with public safety and education).

After several months of discussions with County and city public works staff, the Solano City Managers Group, and the elected officials serving on the Solano Transportation Improvement Authority (STIA), there was consensus that a local funding source is needed to assist each city in addressing their local streets and roads funding shortfall, road safety, and to specifically provide $5 million for mobility funding for Solano County's growing population of seniors and persons with disabilities. On October 14, 2015, the Solano Transportation Authority's Board of Directors unanimously took action to forward this request to the Solano County Board of Supervisors for consideration of a local funding source to address and include the following:

1. Maintenance and Repair of Local Streets and Roads and Road Safety Projects (96%)
2. Senior/Disabled Mobility (3%)
3. Oversight and Accountability (1%)

The third action is in recognition of the importance of establishing trust and accountability with Solano County's voters by providing strong oversight and accountability provisions that will ensure public review and recommendation prior to allocations of local revenues being made and providing audits and accountability that any local revenues have been spent appropriately.

We thank you in advance for considering this important request. Attached for your information is a copy of the STA's 2014 Annual Pothole Report, staff presentations pertaining to Local Streets and Roads, Travel Safety Plan, Senior/Disabled Mobility and the STIA and STA Board staff reports on the subject. If you have any questions regarding the specifics of this recommendation, please contact STA's Executive Director, Daryl Halls at (707) 424-6075.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patterson, STA Board Chair
Mayor, City of Benicia

Pete Sanchez, STA Board Member
Mayor, City of Suisun City

Norman Richardson, STA Board Vice-Chair
Mayor, City of Rio Vista

Len Augustine, STA Board Member
Mayor, City of Vacaville

Jack Batchelor, Jr., STA Board Member
Mayor, City of Dixon

Osby Davis, STA Board Member
Mayor, City of Vallejo

Harry Price, STA Board Member
Mayor, City of Fairfield

Jim Spering, STA Board Member
Supervisor, Solano County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Solano County Board of Supervisors
STA Board Members
Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator, County of Solano
Dennis Bunting, County Counsel, County of Solano
Solano County City Managers:
-Brad Kilger, City Manager, City of Benicia
-Jim Linley, City Manager, City of Dixon
-David White, City Manager, City of Fairfield
-Tim Chapa, City Manager, City of Rio Vista
-Suzanne Bragdon, City Manager, City of Suisun City
-Laura Kuhn, City Manager, City of Vacaville
-Dan Keen, City Manager, City of Vallejo
Solano County Public Works Directors

Attachments:

1. Solano Annual Pothole Report
2. Powerpoint Presentation from STA Board Meeting of October 2015 on Local Streets and Roads, Solano Travel Safety Plan and Senior/Disabled Mobility
3. STIA and STA Board Staff Reports