



736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

August 19, 2015  
via Facsimile and U.S.P.S.

<i>City Manager</i> (707) 822-5953	<i>Environmental Services</i> 822-8184	<i>Police</i> 822-2428	<i>Recreation</i> 822-7091
<i>Community Development</i> 822-5955	<i>Finance</i> 822-5951	<i>Public Works</i> 822-5957	<i>Transportation</i> 822-3775

The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: 916-651-4002

The Honorable Assembly Member Jim Wood  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol Building, Room 5164  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: 916-319-2102

**Re: Increase Funding for Transportation in Special Session**

Dear Senator McGuire and Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the City of Arcata, I'm writing to urge you to support a transportation funding package in the special session that makes a meaningful dent in California's transportation funding shortfall. This is a critical issue for our community that needs to be addressed this legislative session. Our city supports the Fix Our Roads Coalition, a coalition of local governments, business, labor, and transportation advocates that supports a legislative solution to our transportation funding problems this year.

Cities and counties own and operate more than 81 percent of California's roads. If funding remains at current inadequate levels, in 10 years a quarter of local streets and roads in California will be in "failed" condition and the funding shortfall grows by \$21 billion. According to a recent national report, poor roads cost the average California motorist \$762 per year in extra vehicle maintenance costs.

The City of Arcata's current average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is 74 and will need approximately \$24 million over the next 10 years to boost the PCI to 83. If no maintenance or rehabilitation is applied over the next ten years, already distressed streets will continue to deteriorate, and the average PCI will drop to 51.

The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire  
The Honorable Assembly Member Jim Wood  
Page Two  
August 19, 2015

Our City supports a transportation funding package that amounts to \$6 billion annually for at least 10 years. Any funding package should split funds equally between state and local governments. Cities and counties alone need an additional \$3 billion annual investment in the local streets and roads system to improve pavement conditions to an average “good” condition. Any funding package should also be spread across a broad range of funding sources to ensure no one source is increased too much. We support moderate increases in gas and diesel taxes, vehicle registration and license fees, dedicating a portion of cap-and-trade revenue paid at the pump, and user charges for non-fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Any package should move California toward an all-users pay structure in which everyone who benefits from the system contributes to maintaining it.

Additionally, the package should provide strong accountability provisions that protect taxpayers’ investment. This includes constitutionally protecting transportation revenues, repaying existing transportation loans, ending ongoing diversions, establishing performance and accountability criteria, Caltrans reform and oversight, and expediting project delivery.

We know these issues aren’t easy to address, but they will have direct and lasting benefits for our community and for the motorists in your district.

We hope you will support moving a transportation funding package forward.

Sincerely,



Michael Winkler  
Mayor

MW:bd