

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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February 14, 2017

The Honorable Jim Frazier
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for AB 1 (Frazier) – Transportation Funding and Reform Package

Dear Assembly Member Frazier,

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors writes in support of your AB 1 for transportation funding and reform. AB 1 would provide much-needed new funds to maintain and improve local streets and roads, ensure existing revenues meant for transportation projects are redirected to transportation, and implement a number of reforms to improve project delivery while still protecting the environment.

Nevada County maintains approximately 560 miles of roads. Although Nevada County pavement conditions are currently in the top 10 for county roads in the State, we are now in our second year of not being able to perform preventative maintenance activities such as chip sealing and asphalt overlays and we can only respond reactively to pavement issues, not proactively, which is a much more costly approach at the expense of our taxpayers. If transportation funding is not reformed, our pavement will continue to deteriorate to a "poor" condition (based on the Pavement Condition Index) within 5 years.

Over the past 10 years, gas tax funds (our primary revenue source for road maintenance) have dropped in our County by about 33%. Meanwhile, expenses have increased 20% due to inflating construction and labor costs. Within the next 3 years, the road fund balance will be unable to support minimum cash flow requirements for road activities. Unless transportation funding is reformed, we will not be able to perform any pavement preservation activities in upcoming years and liquidity problems will ultimately hamper basic operations.

AB 1 would result in Nevada County being able to ensure fiscal soundness of our roads fund and reinstate road maintenance and rehabilitation, safety projects and complete street projects including pedestrian and bike safety, transit and stormwater elements. Funding from the bill could also be used as matching funds for state and federal funding programs which will help us maximize available

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, Nevada City CA 95959-8617
phone: 530.265.1480 | fax: 530.265.9836 | toll free: 888.785.1480 | email: bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us
website: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos>

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funding. AB 1 will make investments significant enough to improve Nevada County roads and reduce future burdens on taxpayers.

Investing in our roads and highways, active transportation facilities and transit through targeted and balanced increases in revenue will improve California's transportation facilities today, and save taxpayers money for the upkeep of our infrastructure tomorrow—not to mention the savings individual drivers will realize from smoother and safer roads that reduce wear and tear on vehicles.

We look forward to working with you and legislative leadership to successfully advance a meaningful transportation reform and funding package early in the 2017 legislative session. For more information regarding the needs of Nevada County, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Hank Weston

Board of Supervisors, Chair

Copied to: Senator Ted Gaines, California Senate District 1
 Assemblymember Brain Dahle, California Assembly District 1