



The Honorable Lori D. Wilson
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Advancing Fair and Sustainable Transportation Funding for California

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

On behalf of our business, labor, local government and community members throughout California, we write to express our strong support for your efforts to identify and implement policy solutions that address the looming transportation funding crisis in a way that is fair, sustainable and accountable over the long term.

California's leadership in transitioning to fuel-efficient and zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) benefits the environment, but it's important to understand the consequence of more drivers using less gasoline. This means fewer drivers are paying their fair share of user-based fuel taxes that fund multimodal transportation improvements, resulting in a loss of approximately \$31 billion over the next decade, according to the California Transportation Commission.

We applaud your efforts to explore new tools for funding California's multimodal transportation system as the state's current transportation funding system becomes increasingly unfair, unaffordable and unreliable.

As you and your colleagues in the Legislature work to address this critical issue, we respectfully encourage you to consider the following principles and priorities we view as critical to shaping a transportation funding policy that works for all Californians:

Fairness

Most Californians agree that all users of state and local roads should contribute their fair share to maintaining and improving the infrastructure they use. A fair and equitable transportation funding system ensures all drivers contribute their fair share to keeping our roadways in good repair. This includes maintaining a user-pay system, where the costs of transportation infrastructure are primarily covered by those who use it.

Economic Opportunity & Growth

Millions of Californians rely on the state's multimodal transportation system every day for access to economic opportunities, and the movement of goods and services people rely on. Transportation investments not only improve mobility for millions of residents but also create good-paying jobs and drive access to opportunity in communities across the state. Sustained investment in all modes of transportation is essential to maintaining California's status as the world's fourth-largest economy.

Public Safety

An effective transportation system keeps people and families safe. Reliable infrastructure enhances public safety by minimizing hazards that can cause collisions, ensuring timely access to emergency services, enabling evacuations during natural disasters and maintaining critical connectivity when Californians need it most. We must enhance roads and critical transportation infrastructure to protect Californians and the first our responders that help keep our communities safe.

Accountability

We support funding mechanisms that are transparent, data-driven and fiscally responsible. California's transportation future depends on policies that safeguard public trust and are practical and understandable. This includes strong constitutional protections that ensure revenues are used for their intended purposes, as well as independent audits, clear public reporting

and accessible public information about how funds are allocated and how they benefit communities.

Enduring Solutions

California needs forward-looking strategies that will ensure long-term sustainability. While fuel taxes served their purpose as a critical funding source for building and maintaining California's roads, highways, and transit systems, we need to prioritize new solutions that meet the needs of Californians today and in the future.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and stand ready to partner with you in advancing policies that build a better future for all Californians.

Sincerely,

The Fair Transportation Funding Coalition

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency

James Hacker, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency

Dina El-Tawansy, Director, California Department of Transportation

Darnell Grisby, Chair, California Transportation Commission

Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission

Myles White, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom

Trey Reffett, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Transportation, Housing and Homelessness, Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom



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