



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** February 14, 2017

**13**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** FIXING COUNTY ROADS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

#### **Overview**

San Diego County's network of roads is critical to our quality of life and economy. Unfortunately, the condition of road infrastructure is a nationwide issue and in California, most jurisdictions are facing a deteriorating road network. We at the County find ourselves in a similar position. Cities and counties have experienced decreases in state gas tax revenues as a result of the price-based gas tax declining from 39.5 cents a gallon in FY 2013-14 to 27.8 cents a gallon in FY 2016-17. The County shares these same decreased funding challenges as it strives to maintain nearly 2,000 miles of roads in the unincorporated area.

As was stated in the State of the County Address earlier this month, when the road conditions suffer, we all feel it. The County's Pavement Condition Index (PCI), a national rating system for streets, dropped to 60 in September, which is our lowest ever. We need to make roads a priority with the goal of attaining a PCI of 70 within 5 years.

While building and maintaining quality roads in the unincorporated area is a core County responsibility, traditionally the maintenance has been funded by the state and not by using the County's General Purpose Revenue. We must continue to push the State to find alternate funding sources as traditional transportation funding revenues have diminished due to technology improvements in vehicles and driving habits.

This Board has redirected \$5 million annually in funding from utilities toward enhancing local road quality. In addition, last year this Board began using some of our limited TransNet funding for road maintenance. We need to continue looking at solutions outside of the State to keep our roads in safe condition.

We've asked staff to provide a presentation on the County's road condition and maintenance program so that the public is aware of the challenges we face. In addition, the proposed action directs the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to return to the board with a funding plan within 90 days that identifies funding options to reach a PCI of 70 within 5 years.

**SUBJECT:** FIXING COUNTY ROADS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**Recommendation(s)**

**CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR HORN**

1. Receive a presentation on the County’s road maintenance program, its funding challenges, and the impact on pavement conditions.
2. Direct the CAO to return to the board with a funding plan within 90 days that identifies options to reach a Pavement Condition Index of 70 within 5 years.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chair’s signature urging the Governor and the California State Legislature to prioritize and approve a transportation funding solution that will address the deteriorating road conditions throughout the State.

**Fiscal Impact**

N/A

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**Background**

Covering approximately 3,600 square miles, the unincorporated area of San Diego is almost the size of the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. Within that geographic area, the County is responsible for maintaining nearly 2,000 miles of roads. Unfortunately, like counties across the state and nation, maintaining the aging road infrastructure has become increasingly challenging, particularly with rising construction costs and budget constraints. The needs are great and without a well-maintained local street and road system, the economic vitality of the region can be affected.

The impact of decreasing State funding can be felt in the conditions of our local roads which have worsened over time. Jurisdictions use a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to rate the condition of roads. PCI, which was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, rates roads from 0 to 100 based on a visual survey of numbers and types of distresses in pavement. 462 of California’s cities and all 58 counties use the PCI to rate roads. In 2010, the County’s PCI was 71 out of 100; today our County’s PCI is 60. The reduction in PCI is not due to lack of effort by our County road crews; it is a matter of not having sufficient funding for street resurfacing. Deferring road maintenance creates a larger and more expensive backlog, and as our roads deteriorate, future costs to address road conditions will be significantly higher.

The Board has taken steps to address the funding shortfall. Initially, \$5 million from utility payments that had previously been allocated for use as General Purpose Revenue was redirected to the Department of Public Works specifically for road maintenance. Additionally, the Board directed that the County’s TransNet funds which had traditionally been spent entirely on road improvement projects be divided to allow a portion of the funding to be spent on road maintenance; eventually up to the maximum of 30% allowed by the TransNet Extension

**SUBJECT:   FIXING COUNTY ROADS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Ordinance. Finally, last year, the County began a multi-year resurfacing program using road fund reserves, which had been set aside when the State was experiencing volatility and was transferring local street and road funding allocations to the State’s General Fund, as well as using existing fund balance.

Despite these actions, these funding sources are insufficient to cover the loss in funding related to the declining state gas tax funding and to overcome other changes in how and what we drive (for example, more fuel efficient vehicles purchasing less gas).

Therefore, today’s action will receive a presentation on the County’s road maintenance program, and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the board within 90 days with a funding plan that identifies funding options so that we reach at least a 70 PCI within 5 years.

**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

Today’s proposed action supports the Safe Communities Initiative of the County of San Diego’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan by taking actions to maintain a safe and reliable County road network.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB  
Supervisor, 2 District

BILL HORN  
Supervisor, 5 District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

**SUBJECT:** FIXING COUNTY ROADS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**        Yes      No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
   Yes      No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Jacob and Supervisor Horn

**OTHER CONCURRENCES(S):**   N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Robert Spanbauer  
Name  
619-531-5522  
Phone  
Robert.spanbauer@sdcounty.ca.gov  
E-mail

Melanie Wilson  
Name  
619-531-5555  
Phone  
Melanie.wilson@sdcounty.ca.gov  
E-mail