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Public Works News Release

Local Transportation System at Risk without Increased State Investment

Prepared by California League of Cities

California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment first comprehensive review of local system conditions.

BISHOP - The Bishop City Council reviewed troubling data during its 25 January meeting which shows that California's local transportation system is on the brink of crisis. The condition of streets and roads will rapidly deteriorate, according to the California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment (Assessment), without significant state investment in the local system.

"Every trip – whether by car, transit, or bicycle – starts and ends on a local street or road. The local system is critical for safety and mobility of the traveling public, farm to market needs, multimodal needs, and commerce. It is high time that the state leadership prioritizes this important role in the statewide transportation system in their state budgeting decisions," says Director of Public Works David Grah.

The local street and road system provides two-fold opportunity for economic recovery during the worst fiscal crisis in California in decades. The maintenance and preservation of the local transportation network provides both public and private sector jobs and thus supports economic recovery in every corner of the state. Furthermore, well maintained infrastructure is critical for economic development by attracting businesses and providing for the safe and efficient movement of both people and goods.

Analysis included in the assessment finds that the current funding shortfall, considering all existing revenues, for pavement and necessary components, such as storm drains and gutters, is more than \$71 billion for just a 10 year period. At least \$7 billion annually in new money going directly to cities and counties is necessary over the next 10 years to stop further decline and deterioration of our local roadways. Once pavement conditions reach the "Best Management Practices" (the most cost-effective with least impact on mobility and commerce) level it will cost much less to maintain in a good condition in the long term.

According to the Assessment, the average local street and road in California ranks 68 on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) using industry standards based on a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent). This places streets and roads in the “at risk” category. If statewide funding levels are maintained without any supplemental allocations, the pavement rating is projected to deteriorate to 58 in 10 years. If no additional funds are allocated, this rating will plummet even further to a mere 48, just one level above a “failed” rating, by 2033.

Locally, the City of Bishop estimates its funding shortfall for its streets to be about \$1.1 million each year and its current PCI to be 55. This PCI is well below the statewide average but Bishop is not alone. Four instance, 24 counties in the state have an average pavement condition that is considered “at risk” or “poor” on the pavement condition index.

“As roadway conditions decline, the cost to repair them increases exponentially,” says Bishop Public works Director David Grah.

The Assessment is the first in an ongoing study of local pavement conditions and essential components. Currently, there is no comprehensive and systematic statewide approach to quantify local streets and roads needs statewide. The report is a collaborative effort of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, County Engineers Association of California, and other local transportation stakeholders. The information on local pavement conditions was self-reported by local agencies from 2007-2008. The study was made possible through contributions by individual cities and counties.

To download a copy of the report, please visit www.savecaliforniastreet.org. For more information on the full report, please contact Dorothy Johnson, League of California Cities (916-658-8214) or Kiana Buss, California State Association of Counties (916-650-8185). For technical questions, please contact Patrick DeChellis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (626-458-4004).