

June 21, 2019

Stefan Chatwin  
City Manager  
City of Imperial  
420 South Imperial Avenue  
Imperial, CA 92251

**Re: California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Funding**

Dear Stefan:

We hope that this letter finds you well. Today, we write to you to ask for your help in ensuring that we can continue to fund the biennial Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment.

In 2009, the League of California Cities (League) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) released the results of the first-ever comprehensive California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment. Spurred by contributions from cities and counties, the League and CSAC have been able to contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers over the last ten years to produce the report and update on a biennial basis from 2008-2018.

During the state budget crisis of 2010, the report helped stave off potential raids on the state gas tax and prompted serious discussions within the Legislature— regarding the deteriorating condition and unmet funding needs for California’s state and local transportation network.

As a result, the League, CSAC, regional transportation planning agencies and other stakeholders joined in partnership with the legislature and administration to make transportation funding a top state priority. After years of advocacy, the culmination of work led to the crafting, passage, and subsequently the defense of SB 1 (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017), a landmark infrastructure package generating more than \$52 billion over the next 10 years for state and local transportation networks. Of the \$52 billion, local agencies will see \$15 billion in direct subventions, nearly doubling their state transportation funding, while being eligible for an additional \$11 billion on a competitive basis. The \$15 billion in SB 1 is projected to help local agencies prevent further deterioration of their local streets and roads, while bringing over 2/3 of the local network into a state of good repair.

Our work isn’t over. In fact, the unmet funding needs for local streets and roads continue to exceed \$50 billion over the next ten years, threats to transportation funding continue to persist, and an alternative to the dwindling gas tax as vehicles become more fuel efficient are major policy issues cities and counties will need to confront in the immediate and not-so-distant future.

Without your city’s financial support, however, the statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment may be discontinued. Based on the previous two reports, we estimate the next two-year update to cost \$680,000. In the past, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies have elected to provide 50 percent of that funding. Cities and counties have provided the other 50 percent. With the passage of SB 1 and the failure of Proposition 6 on the 2018 ballot, some RTPA’s are re-evaluating their partnership on the Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment. The Oversight Committee, composed of volunteers from League member cities, Counties, and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies which supervises the Assessment effort believes that to eliminate or pare back this report would be a mistake. In order to be able to provide accurate and well put together information for municipalities you will notice below an increase to the suggested contribution level. These new levels will help ensure the stability of this important report without reliance on the largest RTPA contributions that have been relied on in previous years.

The most recent report helped us to drive home the dire need to keep SB 1 funding in order to facilitate critical infrastructure projects. The 482 cities and 58 counties in California maintain over 144,000 centerline miles of streets and roads which accounts for 85.7 percent of all publically maintained centerline miles. Without this comprehensive assessment, it is near impossible to get an accurate snapshot as to the state of local roads in California.

We hope that you will consider contributing as much as you deem appropriate toward financing this important advocacy tool. To help you decide the appropriate amount, we offer the following suggestions:

<b>Population of the jurisdiction</b>	<b>Suggested Contribution Level</b>
Below 10,000	\$200
Between 10,000 and 25,000	\$300
Between 25,000 and 250,000	\$500
Above 250,000	\$1,500

Currently, even with SB 1 funding, our statewide average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) sits at 65, within the “At-Risk” category. Existing funding levels with SB 1 are approximately \$3.083 billion per year. To reach PCI Level 87 over the next 10 years we estimate that the funding required would need to be \$6.824 billion per year.

The data provided by the Assessment has been used by the League and CSAC to advocate for the largest investment made in local transportation in a generation.. Most recently, it has served as a tool to defend these investments. The League and CSAC have used the report to:

- Make presentations to key members of the Legislature (and distribute the report to the Governor, each member of the Legislature, and California’s congressional delegation) and the California Transportation Commission;
- Lobby for increased revenues for cities, as proposed in the First Extraordinary Session on transportation;
- Better explain pavement conditions and funding needs to the public through media coverage;
- Create a dialogue with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) about the report’s methodology, assumptions, and specific findings;
- Make local presentations to Boards of Supervisors and City Councils; and
- Strengthen the arguments made by cities and the League in numerous letters regarding legislation and the budget to prevent policies and budgetary decisions that would have damaged local transportation funding.

For it to continue to be effective in its many uses, the data in the Assessment and its findings must be updated regularly. It will require the financial support of cities to continue this important work. The schedule for contributions above is just a guideline — any and all support is appreciated.

For your convenience, an invoice is included with this letter. If you have any questions, please e-mail or call Brandon Black, League Staff, at [bblack@cacities.org](mailto:bblack@cacities.org) or (916) 658-8204. To review the results of the 2018 California Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, visit [www.savecaliforniastreet.org](http://www.savecaliforniastreet.org).

Sincerely,

Kurt Wilson  
 President; City Managers’ Department  
 City Manager; Stockton

Charles Herbertson  
 President; Public Works Officers’ Department  
 Director of Public Works; Culver City

cc: Public Works Director

# League of California Cities

1400 K Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95814

# Invoice

Date  
6/19/2019

Invoice No.  
105066

City of Imperial  
City Manager  
420 South Imperial Avenue  
Imperial, CA 92251

Description	Amount
2019 Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment	300.00
	<b>Total</b> <i><b>\$300.00</b></i>