**SB1 Op Ed—Project List**

The economy in our region has been growing for several years now, but for many people, jobs and wages have not kept pace. That’s one of the reasons we are pleased that our local governments are planning now for the construction projects in our region that will break ground soon thanks to new funding provided by SB 1 – the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. Funding from SB 1 will be used to make road safety improvements, fill potholes, ease traffic congestion, repair local streets and roads, bridges and overpasses and increase mobility options through transit enhancements and improved pedestrian infrastructure. Locally we will now be able to begin work on many long overdue projects:

1. (list 3-4 projects)
2. Project
3. Project

The full list has been compiled as part of the transparency and accountability requirements that are part of SB 1. First, SB 1 funding is constitutionally protected to ensure that it can only be used for transportation purposes and not diverted by the state Legislature for non-transportation uses. SB 1 also established an Office of Inspector General to ensure that SB 1 funding is spent efficiently.

We are happy to comply with those requirements, to ensure the funds from SB 1 are being spent as intended, fixing our local streets and roads, improving bridges and making it safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists to get where they need to go in our region.

There is also a state component to SB 1. Caltrans has a list of projects it is pursuing to improve the highways and state roads that link our region to the rest of the state. Better, safer roads and bridges were the main reasons for SB 1, but you can’t ignore the impact it will have on our economy. Including state and local projects, more than $XXXX will be spent in our region from SB 1. According to a recent economic study by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, SB 1 will create or support more than 680,000 jobs and help keep the local economic engine turning as we improve our transportation system.

And we can sure use the improvements. The average driver in California today pays more than $700 per year to fix their car because of poor driving conditions. As we begin to improve road conditions in our region, that additional maintenance cost will come down according to a recent study.

SB 1 is an equitable solution to the rising cost of fixing our streets, roads, bridges and highways. Nobody likes potholes, rusting bridges, and unsafe intersections. We were pleased to support SB 1 when it was still working its way through the Legislature. We are still supportive now, as we get ready to put/are putting the new funds to use. This will help pay for road maintenance and other repairs our region has needed for a long time.