**SB1 Op Ed-Public Officials**

Last year, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) – the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 – which today, is funding critical projects in XXXX County/City 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. These are just a few of the projects that we have completed or will be working on, soon, thanks to SB1:

* Main street repaving project
* 10th street bridge safety project
* etc.

The funds from SB 1 essentially double the amount of money dedicated to improving transportation infrastructure in XXX County/City. A full list of projects we will complete is found on our City/County website and was compiled as part of the transparency and accountability measures required by SB 1. Local governments will track SB 1 dollars and report to the California Transportation Commission and public how they are being used to ensure they are improving our existing infrastructure with a focus on the community’s priorities.

In addition to fixing our local roads, SB 1 provides investments to make significant improvements to the state’s highway system throughout California, including several in our region, including, give examples. (The full list of state projects can be found here for reference: http://rebuildingca.ca.gov/map.html).

For us locally, SB 1 provides more than $XXX million in local construction in (city/county. This means we will start/have started making real progress on the backlog of deferred maintenance and other improvements that have been waiting far too long because we didn’t have a steady stream of funding needed to get the job done.

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.

Our staffs at the city and county level have done good work so far, compiling the list, prioritizing projects, and laying the groundwork to begin construction soon. As elected officials, we are pledging to you, our constituents, that we will provide the oversight and direction to ensure these new funds are spent efficiently and as intended, improving the local transportation infrastructure.

The average motorist pays more than $700 a year in added repair costs for their vehicle, just because of the poor condition of our roads. A recent study by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) found transportation improvements from SB 1 will bring annual savings of nearly $300 per household. Improving our roads and bridges will make them safer for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, and, in the long run, could even reduce the overall cost of driving.

We are committed to keeping you informed of progress as we repave, fix and build. Next time you drive by and see the orange cones, know that we at the County/City are working to improve the roads you and your family use very day.