**SB1 Op Ed--Public Officials**

As local elected officials, the most important thing we can do is try to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens we represent. Sometimes that means supporting law enforcement and other first responders. But today we are writing about making our local streets, roads, and bridges safer and more efficient for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor last year, SB 1 – the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 – is providing $XX million a year in funding to improve the local transportation infrastructure in City/County. From fixing potholes to making sure our bridges are safe, SB 1 allows us to start catching up on a significant backlog of deferred maintenance.

In our City/County, critical local projects include:

* Example
* Example
* Example

In fact, we’ve already completed…OR

We will soon see construction beginning on these projects, and the end result will be safer, smoother highways, roads and bridges for all of us.

The project lists are an important component of SB 1. Local governments up and down the state have compiled lists as part of the transparency and reporting requirements in the law. These requirements were included to ensure that the new revenue is constitutionally protected and will be spent on transportation projects only—not diverted to some other use. As your local elected officials, part of our job is to ensure that is the case, and we are pledging to you that this new revenue will be spent as required by the law.

In short, SB 1 means better, safer roads, reduced car repair bills, and much-needed jobs and economic activity for our region and the state. That seems like a good idea to us and we’re excited to start attending many groundbreaking and completion celebration events in the coming months.