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June 27, 2022

Lee Ann Eager, Chair and Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Tab 15, Ref. #4.32: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – Funding Distribution – Resolution G-22-49 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Eager and Commissioners:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties, I write in strong support of proposed Commission Resolution G-22-49, which allocates federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to state, regional, and local transportation programs in California for Federal Fiscal Year 2022. CSAC commends the California State Transportation Agency and the California Department of Transportation for convening a transparent stakeholder process to develop this balanced recommendation through an open-door policy allowing all interested parties to participate. CSAC is particularly supportive of the proposed investments in local bridge repair and replacement, local road safety and active transportation projects, and flexible regional funding needed to meet multiple transportation priorities, including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

The proposed IIJA allocation responds directly to the significant unmet funding needs for local bridge repair and replacement by increasing dedicated funding from just under \$300 million in FFY 2021 to \$584 million in FFY 2022. CSAC, the League of California Cities, and California’s regional transportation agencies presented findings from the [2020 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment](#) to the Commission in October 2021. The Needs Assessment identified a significant funding shortfall for maintaining California’s 12,339 local bridges, of which over 4,800 require rehabilitation or replacement. It also showed that at the current rate of \$300 million in annual bridge funding, [over half of local bridges weighted by deck area would fall into a “poor” condition by 2035](#). The proposed allocation of funding from the IIJA will advance hundreds of projects currently seeking over \$5 billion in funding from California’s Local Highway Bridge Program.

CSAC also supports the proposed increase in funding for the [Local Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#), which will grow from approximately \$70 million annually in FFY 2021, to \$120 million annually in FFY 2022. Caltrans administers federal funding for this competitive grant program, which requires a data-driven, strategic approach to analyze safety issues and fund cost-effective improvements on city and county roads. Local HSIP grants directly support safety improvements for all roadway users, including pedestrians and bicyclists, and help local agencies respond to increasing rates of collisions and deaths on local roadways. The local HSIP is significantly oversubscribed, with applications totaling \$489.8 million and available funding of only \$227.6 million in the most recent round of awards.

Finally, CSAC supports the significant proposed allocations of funding from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) for competitive active transportation project grants, as well as flexible funding for metropolitan planning organizations and regional transportation planning agencies. These funding sources are vital to California's efforts to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Funding from the STBGP is one of the most flexible sources of funding regional transportation planning agencies have to fund multimodal projects that implement their sustainable communities strategies.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We strongly urge your support of the staff recommendation to approve Resolution G-22-49. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at clee@counties.org or (916) 327-7500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chit f", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christopher Lee
Legislative Representative

cc: Mitch Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Paul Golaszewski, Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission
Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Giles Giovinazzi, Senior Advisor, California State Transportation Agency
Jeanie Ward-Waller, Deputy Director, California Department of Transportation
Nicole Longoria, Federal Liaison, California Department of Transportation