



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Local Transportation System at Risk without Increased State Investment

California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment first
comprehensive review of local system conditions

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County reviewed troubling data today during its Board of Supervisors meeting which reveals California’s local transportation system is in crisis. The condition of streets and roads will rapidly deteriorate, according to a recently released California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment, without significant state investment in the local system. The report is the first in an ongoing study of local pavement conditions and essential infrastructure components. Currently, there is no comprehensive and systematic statewide approach to quantify local streets and roads needs statewide.

“Every trip – whether by car, bus, or bicycle – starts and ends on a local street or road,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “The local system is critical for safety and mobility of the traveling public, farm to market needs, and for trade and commerce. State leaders needs to prioritize this important role in the statewide transportation system in their budgeting decisions.”

“Our local street and road system provides two-fold opportunity for economic recovery during the worst fiscal crisis in California in decades,” said Yolo County Economic Development Manager Wes Ervin. “The maintenance and preservation of the local transportation network provides both public and private sector jobs and thus supports economic recovery in every corner of the state. Furthermore, well maintained infrastructure is critical for economic development by attracting businesses and providing for the safe and efficient movement of both people and goods.”

The California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment report is a collaborative effort of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, County Engineers Association of California, and other local transportation stakeholders. The information on local pavement conditions was self-reported by local agencies from 2007 to 2008. The study was made possible through contributions by individual cities and counties.

Analysis included in the assessment finds that the current state funding shortfall, considering all existing revenues for pavement and necessary components such as storm drains and gutters, is more than \$71 billion for just a ten year period. Yolo County estimates its funding shortfall for streets and roads at \$5-6 million per year. At least \$7 billion annually in new money going directly to cities and counties in California is necessary over the next 10 years to stop further deterioration of local roadways. Once pavement conditions reach the “Best Management Practices” level (the most cost-effective with the least impact on mobility and commerce) it will cost much less to maintain in the long term.

According to the assessment, the average local street and road in California ranks 68 on the Pavement Condition Index using industry standards based on a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent). This places streets and roads statewide in the “at risk” category. If funding levels are maintained without any supplemental allocations, the pavement rating is projected to deteriorate to 58 in the next ten years. If no additional funds are allocated, by 2033 this rating will plummet even further to a mere 48, just one level above a “failed” rating. Twenty-four counties, including Yolo County, have an average pavement condition that is below the state average and considered “at risk” or “poor” on the pavement condition index.

“As roadway conditions decline, the cost to repair them increases exponentially,” says Panos Kokkas, Yolo County Assistant Director of the Planning & Public Works Department, Public Works Division.

To download a copy of the report, visit www.savecaliforniastreet.org. For more information on the full report, contact Dorothy Johnson, League of California Cities (916-658-8214) or Kiana Buss, California State Association of Counties (916-650-8185). For technical questions, contact Patrick DeChellis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (626-458-4004).

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