



LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Christopher M. Ward
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: AB 2120 (Ward): Investing Federal Funding in Local Bridges
As introduced on February 14, 2022 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing in Assembly Transportation Committee – March 28, 2022**

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), are in strong support of your bill, AB 2120, which would ensure a fair and needs-based allocation of bridge formula funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). AB 2120, which is sponsored by CSAC, would invest billions of dollars over the next few years in repairing and replacing local bridges in communities across the state to address critical safety issues and deferred maintenance.

Specifically, AB 2120 would help address the strong need for increased local bridge funding by applying California's historic formula from the former federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program to the distribution of new bridge formula funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), allocating 55% to local projects. AB 2120 would also require the state to maintain its current commitment of flexible federal highway funding to local bridges. Taken together, these changes would increase federal funding available to local bridges from approximately \$300 million annually to approximately \$800 million annually over the five-year term of the IIJA.

Local bridge repair and replacement needs in California are acute. California has over 12,000 locally-owned bridges—more than 4,300 of which need costly repairs. Despite a typical design

life of 75 to 100 years, nearly one-fifth of local bridges are at least 80 years old. There is also a significant disparity in the condition of state and local bridges, with 11.5% of local bridges rated in poor condition under federal standards, compared to only 3.3% of state bridges. At the current rate of funding, the percentage of local bridges in poor condition will climb to above 50% within the next 20 years. Simply preventing further decay in local bridge conditions would require nearly \$800 million each year—an increase of approximately \$500 million annually.

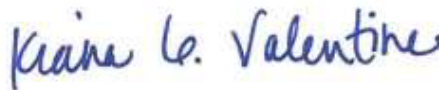
Local bridges are a critical part of our transportation infrastructure. They connect residents to jobs, schools, clinics, grocery stores, retail stores, and their families. Funding for local bridges has remained stagnant for many years, and there is a significant and growing need to increase investments in local bridge funding. AB 2120 tackles this problem head-on by ensuring continued investment in local bridges from flexible federal highway funds and allocating additional funding from the IJA to help close the significant funding gap for local bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects.

For these reasons, our organizations strongly support AB 2120. If you need more information about our position, please contact: Chris Lee (CSAC) at clee@counties.org, Damon Conklin (Cal Cities) at dconklin@calcities.org, Kiana Valentine (UCC) at kiana@politicogroup.com, Siddharth Nag (RCRC) at snag@rcrcnet.org, or Sabrina Bradbury (SACOG) at sbradbury@sacog.org.

Sincerely,



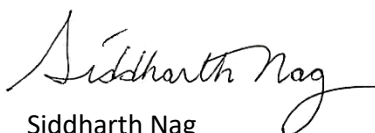
Christopher Lee
CSAC



Kiana Valentine
UCC



Damon Conklin
Cal Cities



Siddharth Nag
RCRC



James Corless, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Council of Governments

cc: The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
Julia Kingsley, Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus