



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Bradley A. Jensen**  
Director

March 14, 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**

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

On behalf of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong support of AB 2120, a bill which would ensure a fair and needs-based allocation of bridge formula funding from the recently passed federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). These funds would help close the significant gap between what is needed to repair and replace deteriorated local bridges and the \$300 million per year currently available statewide.

Specifically, AB 2120 would apply California's historic formula from the prior federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program to the distribution of bridge formula funds 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.

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 a significant disparity in the condition of state and local bridges, with 11.5% of local bridges in poor condition 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.

Here in San Bernardino County, we have an urgent need to fix or replace all 133 wooden bridges on historic Route 66 – 100 bridges are over 20 feet long and 33 bridges are less than 20 feet long. These

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original wood bridges were constructed from 1929 to 1933 with a 25-year life span that has long ago been exceeded. In many areas, the bridges have deteriorated beyond repair and weight restrictions have been imposed. The primary source of funding to replace these bridges comes from Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP), however this program will only fund eligible bridges that have a low sufficiency rating and are over 20 feet in length. For the 33 bridges that are less than 20 feet long, local funds or grants must be used at an estimated cost of roughly \$70 million to repair. Passage of AB 2120 would enable San Bernardino County to better utilize federal funds to maintain critical bridge infrastructure for our residents.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing this important issue for all counties in California. San Bernardino County strongly supports AB 2120. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Brad Jensen, Director of Legislative Affairs, at [bradley.jensen@cao.sbcounty.gov](mailto:bradley.jensen@cao.sbcounty.gov) or (909) 387-4600.

Sincerely,



Curt Hagman  
Fourth District Supervisor  
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County State Lawmakers  
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  
California State Association of Counties