

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

August 21, 2008

Mr. John Chalker, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Chalker and Members:

We understand that when the 2008-2009 budget is enacted, the Commission will have \$83 million available for allocating to projects funded by the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP). However, we have been informed by the Commission's executive director that there are over \$200 million in TCRP funding request pending before the Commission. As the Commission knows, the legislation creating the TCRP, AB 2928 (Torlakson), Chapter 91, Statutes of 2000, does not contemplate a backlog of projects.

Unfortunately, the loans and transfers that were necessary to balance previous state budgets have interrupted the smooth flow of revenue that was expected when the TCRP was enacted. As a consequence of these actions, there is a discontinuity between the availability of funds and the readiness of projects.

While this situation may ultimately have to be resolved through legislation next year, we encourage the Commission to develop a prioritization strategy for allocating the \$83 million made available this year to TCRP projects. The mobility and economic benefits of funding even a portion of the TCRP projects outweigh waiting for a more comprehensive approach to this matter.

We value the relationship between the Legislature and the Commission, and welcome the opportunity to assist you with this issue.

Very truly yours,



Senator Alan Lowenthal
Chair, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee



Assemblymember Mark Desaulnier
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee