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## Transportation (SAFETEA-LU)

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### SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has several transportation projects to be considered as part of the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU program. SAFETEA-LU is currently authorized for 2005-2009.

*In accordance with the Inter-Agency Collaboration Legislative Principle, the County is supportive of the Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG) Regional Transportation Priority Requests. This includes their top priority project, the Highway 101 HOV Widening Project, as well as overall Highway 101 system enhancements, including supporting Vandenberg AFB and other key projects which complement County federal funding requests.*

#### 1. Pavement Preservation Funding

The County of Santa Barbara has been a leader in Pavement Preservation since 1994. The Pavement Preservation philosophy consists of taking care of our backbone roads that are in a good condition to ensure that they continue to stay in good condition. Pavement Preservation practices include both preventive and corrective non-structural actions to provide cost-effective alternatives to local roadways. This is opposite of the common philosophy of fixing roadways which are "worst first" which devotes funds to costly resurfacing, rehabilitation and restoration projects. Preventive maintenance is proactive maintenance and uses cost-effective treatments to arrest surface deterioration and extends the useful life of our pavement. Pavement Preservation treatments require more latitude in the requirements for use of federal funding due to the current service life requirements so that we may utilize a variety of proven tools. Local agencies can perform three innovative, cost-effective treatments for the same cost as one conventional overlay.

#### 2. Off Federal System Local Bridge Funding

The County maintains approximately 110 bridges that are currently eligible to receive funding through the Highway Bridge Project (HBP, formerly HBRR). With the proposed reauthorization language of off system bridges not being eligible for this funding, it would eliminate a potential funding source for the replacement of 50% of our maintained bridges. Local agencies cannot afford to fund these structures themselves and need the federal government's HBP program to do that.

The reauthorization should include the ability for local agencies to utilize federal funding for minor bridge maintenance. This maintenance is vital for the survival of the nation's existing bridges. Treatments would include the sealing of existing bridge decks to ensure that water does not infiltrate the structural elements of the bridge and cause further and more expensive damage.

#### 3. Roadway Surface Treatments and Drainage Improvements

This project consists of in-place recycling and deep-lift asphalt concrete overlays on: (1) four Federal Aid Routes in the 24th Congressional District of the County, which includes various routes within the unincorporated areas of Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, and (2) ten Federal Aid Routes in the 23rd Congressional District of the County, which includes various routes within the unincorporated areas of Montecito, Summerland, Santa Barbara, Goleta,

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