



County of Santa Cruz

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Board of Supervisors calls for action on local road funding

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution calling on Gov. Jerry Brown and the California Legislature to identify and pass a sufficient and stable source of funding to maintain the state's network of roads and highways, including funding for local roads.

Nearly two-thirds of Santa Cruz County's local roads are rated as "at risk," "poor" or "failed," according to the 2014 *California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment*. The county's average pavement condition index of 55 is far below the statewide average of 66, and without further action, a quarter of county roads will fall into "failed" condition within ten years.

While Gov. Brown showed leadership in calling an extraordinary session to locate "permanent and stable funding to adequately and responsibly maintain and repair the state's transportation and infrastructure," he unfortunately made no mention of funding sources for local roads. While the county has worked hard to replace aging bridges and repair damage from the March 2011 storms, it is struggling with cuts to gas tax funding and a lack of new grant money from state and federal sources. More funding is need to make streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles alike.

With debate in the state Senate expected to begin this week on transportation funding, the county is ready to get to work repairing neighborhood streets. It has a five-year work plan for local road projects, which would be considerably aided by new funding proposals that could mean millions annually for local projects.

"Based on the current condition of our roadways, we would put the money to use as soon as possible," Santa Cruz County Public Works Director John Presleigh said.

INTERACTIVE

For a map of Santa Cruz County's proposed five-year plan to improve local roads, which includes photos, [click here](#).