

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) California
Policy Platform
Infrastructure Funding

Approved by the Executive Committee on January 21, 2014
Adopted by the Board of Directors on February 3, 2014

Issue

- Today, funding for California’s infrastructure — including highways, streets, public buildings, public transit, airports, landfills, dams, levees, ports, waterways, water supply, water treatment, wastewater treatment, energy, levees, parks, schools and other public facilities — is insufficient to meet the 21st century needs of our growing population and expanding economy. That inadequacy has been documented in numerous publications and studies including:
 - The "[California Infrastructure Report Card](#)" by ASCE,
 - "[A Ten-Year Perspective: California Infrastructure Spending](#)" by the California Legislative Analyst’s Office,
 - "[California Road Funds Fall Far Short](#)" by Orange County Register,
 - "[Smart Infrastructure Financing](#)" by California Economic Summit, Transportation California’s White Paper on [California’s Infrastructure Crisis](#), and
 - The [California Alliance for Jobs](#)' documents on responsible investment in public works projects, the looming [transportation fiscal cliff](#), our [water supply being at risk](#), and others.

- For many years, California has failed to create new infrastructure facilities and properly maintain and improve its existing facilities in a timely manner. California has failed to allocate sufficient funding for infrastructure improvements or improve the efficiency of operations and project delivery systems, such as expanding the use of public-private partnerships (P3s).

- By modernizing its infrastructure, California could provide multiple mobility alternatives and relieve traffic congestion. This would allow the people of California to more efficiently travel to their jobs, homes, and activities every day.

- Modern infrastructure:
 - Requires less fossil fuel to generate electricity, relying more on alternative energy sources, and more efficiently transports electricity to where it is needed,
 - Reclaims and recycles more used water and facilitates water conservation,
 - Preserves resources, prevents pollution, and allows for restoration and rehabilitation of blighted properties and neighborhoods, and
 - Improves water and air quality.

- The infrastructure funding issue affects state and local elected officials, public resource managers, members of the general public who use infrastructure, and the members of ACEC California.

Policy

ACEC California believes there is no single solution to the problem of infrastructure funding and that a variety of steps are needed. ACEC California supports the following:

1. Increased funding through the enactment of voter approved bonds, user fees, and tax measures that specifically identify the projects to be funded by the measure with strict protections for that purpose.
2. Holding public agencies accountable for efficient and timely delivery of infrastructure improvements and operations.
3. Lowering the voter approval threshold to a 55% super-majority for local sales tax measures for transportation funding where there are strict accountability provisions with local public representation and protections for transportation purposes.
4. Providing legal authority for local and regional public agencies to allocate infrastructure funds and deliver, maintain, and operate infrastructure projects.
5. Expanding opportunities for local public agencies to use benefit assessments and tax increment growth to finance infrastructure needed for local economic development.
6. Approving revenue and general obligation bonds that are dedicated to infrastructure improvements.

7. Granting broad authority and incentives for local, regional, state and federal agencies to use private financing and/or public-private partnerships (P3s) to deliver and operate infrastructure improvements.
8. Initiating improvements to the State Infrastructure Bank to facilitate private investment.
9. Instituting administrative and permitting reforms at the local, state and federal levels to help speed up the delivery of infrastructure improvements, while protecting public health and safety and the environment.

Rationale

- Appropriately designed, properly constructed, and well-maintained infrastructure is essential to:
 - Achieve public health and safety,
 - Foster an expanding job-creating economy, and
 - Provide Californians with a high quality of life.
- The members of ACEC California deeply believe in the importance of quality infrastructure for California's future and devote their businesses to promptly delivering cost-effective, sustainable infrastructure projects that meet the needs of the general public.

ACEC CA Policy Platform

Infrastructure Funding

First Approved February 3, 2014