

Principles for Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation

1. Prioritize the use of formula funding with sufficient flexibility to respect the unique nature of regional transportation agencies in the Southern California Association of Governments region.
2. Champion innovative approaches to project financing and delivery, specifically the streamlining of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan program, based on the experience of agencies that have a history of utilizing these tools to modernize our nation's infrastructure.
3. Advocate for transportation programs without placing new limits or conditions on the distribution of funds in a way that would impede infrastructure improvements.
4. Ensure that air quality determinations and related policies do not constrain funding availability or undermine the delivery of transportation improvements, instead focusing on federal policies that reward how much California has achieved with state air quality and climate change policies.
5. Seek opportunities to expedite and improve the efficiency of the environmental review process, including additional funding to complete state and federal environmental quality requirements.
6. Promote a transparent, fair discretionary grant process that ensures geographic equity and is free from arbitrary limits, matching requirements, or other policies that would discourage federal funding from flowing to Orange County.
7. Support funding and policy flexibility for transit agencies that are the earliest adopters of zero-emission bus technology.
8. Ensure that funding new infrastructure programs do not replace or adversely affect the delivery of transportation funding directly allocated to the Orange County Transportation Authority.
9. Develop a fiscally-sound, innovative solution to the Highway Trust Fund's structural revenue deficit that meets our nation's long-standing transportation needs and reduces the volatility of transportation resources, such as through the testing of a Road User Charge system.
10. Continue the long-standing commitment of Highway Trust Fund revenues for transit expenditures.