

**Introduced by Senator Beall**

August 2, 2016

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 24—Relative to federal transportation funding.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 24, as introduced, Beall. Federal transportation funding.

This measure would urge Congress and the President of the United States to fully fund the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program at a level of \$525 million in the 2017 fiscal year to provide additional critical investment in California and elsewhere, and to work together to finally find a long-term, sustainable funding solution to restore the lost purchasing power of the federal fuel excise tax, provide California and the rest of the country with the resources needed to rebuild its infrastructure, invest in its people through good, well-paying jobs, and restore our economy.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1     WHEREAS, California's transportation infrastructure is aging  
2     and in serious need of repair with the state facing a \$59 billion  
3     shortfall to bring the existing state highway system to a state of  
4     good repair over the next decade and with California cities and  
5     counties facing a \$78 billion shortfall in restoring their own systems  
6     over the same period; and  
7     WHEREAS, California motorists spend \$17 billion annually in  
8     extra maintenance and car repair bills, more than \$700 per driver,  
9     due to the state's poorly maintained roads; and  
10    WHEREAS, Freight transportation is critical to the economic  
11    vitality of the United States and robust investment in safe and

1 efficient transportation facilities and infrastructure is essential to  
2 promoting strong economic growth in California and throughout  
3 the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, California has the most extensive, complex, and  
5 interconnected freight system in the country, including a system  
6 of seaports stretching from the City of Humboldt to the City of  
7 San Diego, six international land ports of entry along the United  
8 States-Mexico border, and a vast network of freight rail lines and  
9 truck routes which enable the state to serve as the nation's gateway  
10 to international trade; and

11 WHEREAS, California's freight network moves 1.8 billion tons  
12 of goods, valued at more than \$2 trillion, throughout the state, the  
13 vast majority of which travels to destinations beyond the state's  
14 borders; and

15 WHEREAS, Freight shipments into, out of, and within  
16 California are projected to grow approximately 180 percent by the  
17 year 2040; and

18 WHEREAS, California's freight system is responsible for the  
19 creation of 800,000 freight jobs and stimulates the creation of  
20 millions of other jobs throughout the economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Expansion of public transportation is a key element  
22 of California's strategy to improve mobility while meeting critical  
23 greenhouse gas reduction targets, yet the California Transit  
24 Association reports that the state's public transit agencies face a  
25 10-year \$72 billion capital and operating shortfall; and

26 WHEREAS, In December 2015, the United States Congress  
27 passed, and President Barack Obama signed, the Fixing America's  
28 Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), which represents the first  
29 long-term federal transportation bill in more than a decade; and

30 WHEREAS, The FAST Act provides California and other states  
31 with long-term certainty and stability in financing transportation  
32 projects by providing marginal increases in most existing highway  
33 and transit programs, as well as \$2.1 billion annually in new freight  
34 investment; and

35 WHEREAS, The FAST Act still falls short of the level of  
36 investment needed to rebuild California's and the nation's  
37 infrastructure because the United States Congress has not raised  
38 the federal fuel excise tax that traditionally has funded  
39 transportation since 1993, and meanwhile, the tax has lost more  
40 than 55 percent of its purchasing power and Congress has been

1 unable to agree on an alternative to restore that funding gap; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
4 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature commends Congress and  
5 the President of the United States for enacting the FAST Act to  
6 provide stability and reliability in federal transportation funding  
7 over the next five years; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President  
9 to fully fund the Transportation Investment Generating Economic  
10 Recovery (TIGER) program at a level of \$525 million in the 2017  
11 fiscal year to provide additional critical transportation investment  
12 in California and elsewhere; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President  
14 to work together to finally find a long-term, sustainable funding  
15 solution to restore the lost purchasing power of the federal fuel  
16 excise tax, and provide California and the rest of the country with  
17 the resources needed to rebuild its infrastructure, invest in its  
18 people through good, well-paying jobs, and restore our economy;  
19 and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
21 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
22 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
23 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative  
24 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the  
25 author for appropriate distribution.