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JKPS 8/24/18

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August 21, 2018

FILED
AUG 24 2018
Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne
By: Diana Feeley Clerk

Judge of Superior Court
Honorable Kate Powell Segerstrom
Tuolumne County Superior Court
60 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report – **Tuolumne County's Deteriorating Roads**

Dear Judge Powell-Segerstrom:

The following is offered in response to the 2017-18 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to Tuolumne County's Deteriorating Roads.

Grand Jury Findings

F1. Funding for road maintenance (including the new SB1 funds) remains inadequate to reverse the deterioration of the City and County system, particularly the Minor Collector and Local community roads. Current Tuolumne County funding for maintenance will be about $9 million per year when fully receiving the new SB1 funds. An additional $4 million per year for 20 years is needed to catch up for all roads.

Response: Partially agree. The Board agrees with this finding in its intent; however, the Board offers the following as a correction to a statement made in the finding:

The County needs $15.5 million per year and will only receive $9 million per year from existing funding and SB1 when fully receiving the new SB1 funds.

F2. The County uses a two-stage approach to allocation of available funds. Minor Arterials and Major Collectors are given first priority, followed by a screening process based on the Pavement Condition Index process if there are any remaining funds.

Response: Partially agree. The County uses a three-stage approach (versus two-stage approach) to allocate funds by assessing functional classifications, pavement condition indices and the average daily traffic.

F3. Using the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) as the primary criteria to allocate funds for Minor Collectors and Local Roads is not a true Return to Source policy and disadvantages some communities over others. (Return to Source: a method for fairly and proportionally distributing a general tax back to the various communities of the County)

Response: Partially agree. Prioritizing funds on higher use roads (Arterials and Major Collectors) that connect communities benefits all users; however, all roads are considered for funding. While the PCI is the primary criteria, many other factors are considered allowing for discretion in how funding is allocated.

F4. The oldest roads in the County (71 of 484 non-private subdivisions) were not built to known road standards for drainage, base and asphalt topping, and generally require more maintenance than newer roads built to standards.

Response: Partially agree. The oldest roads in the County were not built to road standards for drainage, base and asphalt topping which requires additional maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction to meet current roadway standards.

F5. The County lacks adequate funding to maintain roads in the 375 non-private subdivisions for which it is responsible.

Response: Agree.

F6. Of the 107 non-private subdivisions with responsibility for funding of road maintenance, only 21 are currently doing so.

Response: Agree. The Board agrees that the majority of privately maintained public subdivision roads do not have a formal funding source for ongoing maintenance. In 2018, twenty-three (23) subdivisions received assessment and/or ad valorem funding. Of these 23, only 18 are considered actively funded and are managed by Community Resources Agency engineering staff.

Grand Jury Recommendations

R1. Tuolumne County continues to maintain priority for State and Federal maintenance funding (including SB1) on Minor Arterials and Major Collector roads and extend where possible to Minor Collector roads.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented and will continue in the future. The Board adopted *2016 Pavement Management Preventive Maintenance Methodology Matrix* implemented direction to staff consistent with this recommendation. Staff will continue to present the condition of the roads to the Board by means of the *State of the Roads Report* and allow the Board to make necessary changes based on available funding and goals of the Board.

R2. Tuolumne County and the City of Sonora to conduct a public discussion regarding a sales tax increment for Minor Collector and Local Roads, following the successful approach offered by the Self-Help Counties Coalition (the existing 24 county sales tax programs throughout the State of California).

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will in the future. County staff continues to follow our neighboring agencies and watch the success within rural regions of the Self-Help Counties Coalition. The Board and County staff will seek additional steps to engage public discussion for additional local measures to improve roadway infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above findings and recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding same.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. GRAY, Chair
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board

By: