

Rep. Ellen Tauscher Urges California Transportation Commission to Allocate a Greater Percentage of F

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Rep. Ellen Tauscher Urges California Transportation Commission to Allocate a Greater Percentage of Funds for Area Projects

Washington, DC – Today, in a letter to California Transportation Commission Chair, Marian Bergeson, and Vice Chair, Jim Ghielmetti, Rep. Ellen Tauscher joined bay area colleagues, Jerry McNerney, George Miller, and Pete Stark in urging the Commission to allocate a greater amount of the funds for transportation projects in and around the Bay Area.

The letter acknowledges the historic step taken by California voters by passing Proposition 1B and addressing the critical importance of goods movement through the state and mobility concerns on our state’s most congested highways.

Of the \$4.5 billion provided in the bond for corridor mobility, \$1.8 billion, or 40% of the total amount, will be made available to projects in the northern portion of the state. Traditionally, the "North" includes a huge swath of land from the Oregon border stretching south to just north of Bakersfield. Within this large region, according to Caltrans data, Bay Area residents face the largest share of congestion within Northern California.

Rep. Tauscher, the Bay Area's senior member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee noted that "our region contributes over 25 percent of the state's GDP and over 33 percent of the General Fund revenues. It's only fair that a major allocation of northern California's share of the bond funds (spacing) be primarily used to reduce congestion in our area."

The letter goes on to note that "Along with overwhelmingly supporting the bond initiative, voters in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Joaquin and Santa Clara Counties have already adopted county-wide transportation sales tax initiatives which make these counties and our region a wise investment for state dollars, as local funds will ensure that important regional projects are completed successfully."

Specific transportation projects the Members of Congress requested priority funding for include improvements to I-580, Highway 4 and the I-80/I-680 interchange, as well as the growing Port of Oakland.

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