



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two-year Legislative Session Ends with No New Transportation Package

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. – September 1, 2016 – Today the California Legislature closed out its two-year session without making progress on one of the most important issues in the state and our region; our underfunded transportation infrastructure. In June 2015, Governor Brown called a special legislative session on transportation, which ran concurrently with the regular session. Although there were recent attempts to structure a bill in both the Assembly and the Senate, neither received a meaningful hearing. The Transportation Special Session remains in effect through the end of November.

“We are dismayed, but unfortunately not surprised, by the inaction in Sacramento,” said Ron De Carli, Executive Director of SLOCOG. “We are now dependent on a lame-duck session for any progress on transportation funding. Additionally, all bills presented to this point have only provided funds for half of the of the projected need. The longer we wait to fix our roads, the more it’s going to cost taxpayers.”

The most recent proposal in the legislature was a \$7.5-billion plan by Democrats that included raising the gas tax by 17 cents a gallon. The proposal also relied on a diesel tax increase and increasing registration fees. Statewide transportation funding needs are projected to be \$14 billion, according to Legislative Findings including in the recent proposals. Tax increases require a supermajority vote in each house.

In July, the SLOCOG Board of Directors and the County Board of Supervisors approved placing the San Luis Obispo County Self-Help Local Transportation Investment Plan on the November 2016 ballot. Measure J, if passed by a super majority of voters in SLO County this November, creates a ½ percent sales tax increase that will provide an estimated \$25 million a year in additional transportation funding for the region. The money is protected from state raids and can only be used on locally approved transportation projects and programs identified in the Investment Plan.

For more information on the Plan, visit www.selfhelpslo.org. To schedule an informational meeting, call 805-781-4462.

About SLOCOG (www.slocog.org)

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an association of local governments in the San Luis Obispo County Region. Its members include all 7 cities (Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo) as well as unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. The central purpose of SLOCOG is to examine common regional problems and suggest solutions. SLOCOG provides transportation planning and funding for the region, and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the region’s long-range transportation plan, SLOCOG plans and provides funding for public transit services, highway and roadway improvements, and other alternative methods of transportation.

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