



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of May 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 4-C

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Letter of Support for SB 1291 (Beall) Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program: submissions

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Approve and authorize Chair to sign letter of support

SUMMARY:

SB 1291 (Beall) Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program: submissions, would provide much needed flexibility to regional agencies that otherwise face developing the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) in the face of uncertainties related to federal changes under the SAFE Vehicles Rule (Part 2).

The bill temporarily suspends a more stringent state requirement during a period of great uncertainty. The underlying federal requirement remains in place, which is a new FSTIP every 4 years. California law requires a new FSTIP every two years.

There are two factors that are driving this need. First, there is a significant amount of uncertainty related to the implementation of the SAFE Vehicles Rule. Part 2 of the rule was unveiled in March and will likely be effective sometime in June. The changes in fuel efficiencies create uncertainties related to modeling factors needed to make air conformity determinations. If conformity cannot be determined, billions in transportation projects—including rail and transit projects—will be at risk as soon as October of this year.

Second, the FSTIP process requires a tremendous amount of work and coordination with local jurisdictions to complete. To get the needed approvals by September, much of the advance work needs to be done in May, June, and July. This year, those timelines are particularly difficult. Like most agencies, we are having a difficult time completing all the things that need to get done while we shelter in place. Given the significant consequences if an FSTIP is not completed by October 1, it would be prudent to suspend the state requirement this year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2019-20 Overall Work Program and Budget.