

BELVEDERE · CORTE MADERA · FAIRFAX  
SAN ANSELMO · SAN RAFAEL



LARKSPUR · MILL VALLEY · NOVATO  
ROSS · SAUSALITO · TIBURON

Reply to: Alice Fredericks  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
MCCMC Tiburon Town Hall  
1505 Tiburon Blvd  
Tiburon, CA 94920

August 23, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 137, as amended, Dodd. Federal transportation funds: state exchange programs.  
Notice of Support (As amended June 18, 2019)**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers supports SB 137 (Dodd), which would reduce duplicative federal transportation permitting and environmental review by authorizing the expansion of the State's existing program to exchange federal surface transportation revenues for state transportation revenues. Referred to as the Match-Exchange Program, this streamlining mechanism is currently only available to regional transportation planning agencies with populations below 200,000.

SB 137 will allow the state and local agencies to reduce the cost of transportation projects and provide for more projects to be completed with the same amount of revenue by expanding the Match Exchange Program to other transportation programs with federal funds allocated to local agencies, specifically the Highway Safety Improvement Program and local bridge projects. Counties have estimated that going through federal aid process and the National Environmental Policy Act review, in addition to California's robust processes, adds anywhere from fifteen to forty percent to the cost of a project; especially smaller projects. Accordingly, it has been a long-standing goal of local transportation officials to more efficiently allocate federal funds among projects and exchange federal funds for state funding where appropriate.

This bill does not require, but authorizes, the state to expand the Match Exchange Program to the extent that state funds are available and that the additional exchanges would not compromise other state funded projects or activities.

MCCMC supports SB 137.

Respectfully,

Alice Fredericks, Chair  
Legislative Committee  
Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers

cc. Senator Dodd  
Senator McGuire  
Assembly Member Levine  
Nancy Hall Bennett, Regional Public Affairs Manager, nbennett@cacities.org  
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org  
David Jones, Emanuels Jones, david@emanuelsjones.com