Governor Brown, Senator Pro-Tem de León and Speaker Rendon introduce $52 Billion Road Repair Bill

United Contractors has released the following statement in response to the road repair bill announced this afternoon.

Today, Governor Brown, alongside Senator Pro-Tem de León, Speaker Rendon and members of the legislature announced a $5.2 billion annual transportation funding package that will help repair, rebuild and reinvest in our state’s decaying roads, highways, bridges and transit systems over the next decade. The bill comes after years of intensive advocacy from United Contractors and dozens of stakeholders.

United Contractors applauds Governor Brown, Senator Pro-Tem de León, Speaker Rendon and Transportation Chairmen Beall and Frazier for their leadership on this important issue.

For decades, the legislature has kicked the can down the crumbling road on the issue of properly funding our roads and highways; we see and feel the effects of that neglect every day in the form of gridlock, potholes, sink holes, crumbling roads, and damaged cars. Legislative inaction is hamstringing our economy and harming our quality of life. It’s time to invest.

The transportation funding and reform proposal introduced today is a balanced package of needed revenue and smart reforms to more efficiently invest in California’s roads, bridges, neighborhood streets, and public transit systems. Two thirds of the new funding is dedicated to fixing roads and bridges at the state and local levels with $15 billion to improve state highways and crumbling roads, $15 billion to fix potholes and improve neighborhood streets and roads, and $4 billion to repair state highway bridges and culverts. $8.65 billion will be allocated for public transit and active transportation planning.

The revenue in this package is user-based, relying on fuel taxes and a progressive transportation improvement fee based on vehicle value. For the majority of car owners the combination of new fuel and vehicle taxes will be less than $10 a month.

Although a tax increase is never an easy thing, it is absolutely necessary to repair and rebuild our state’s crumbling infrastructure. In addition to being a user-based fee system, the bill ensures that the funds are dedicated to transportation purposes and creates essential accountability, oversight and regulatory reforms that are important to our industry.
This is the right thing for California’s economy, for our safety, and for the quality of life of every California family. Now it’s time for members of the legislature to step up, face the challenge, and show true leadership by supporting this investment package.

UCON is urging all members to contact their Representatives’ district offices to urge their support of the road repair bill. Take action. Visit www.fixcaroads.com/call/

Contact: Emily Cohen, Executive Vice President, ecohen@unitedcontractors.org; 925-855-7900

Don't forget to forward this message to your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors. Bring this issue to their attention. We need the voice and support of all Californians!