

DAN LEAHY
FOR STATE ASSEMBLY
"A new voice, a better choice."

TRANSPORTATION

OVERVIEW

Address Transportation Priorities

Sacramento is at a crossroads when it comes to addressing transportation issues. If we plan smart growth and expand our mass transit options we can relieve congestion in our communities.

THE PROBLEM

Freeway Congestion

Every year Californians spend more and more time in traffic gridlock. This wastes time, causes wear and tear on vehicles and spews pollution in our air. Expansion of our freeway system is not solving our traffic problems. In fact, by the time we finish expanding a section of highway, demand has already grown to fill the increased capacity.

Mass Transit Hiccups

Today's mass transit system has gaps. Here in Sacramento County, Regional Transit does not have service to Sacramento International Airport. To reduce vehicles on the road, we need to address shortfall with our mass transit and other transportation infrastructure.

New Developments Lack Planning

Many new housing developments lack long-range planning when it comes to transportation options. This compounds our problems because this traffic adds to an already overwhelmed transportation infrastructure. By not addressing transportation issues during the planning phase, it makes it all that more difficult to address them after the development has been built.

MY PLAN

Prioritize Mass Transit Projects

Transportation funds should be prioritized towards mass transit projects. These projects relieve more congestion on our roads dollar for dollar than does widening our highways. We need to shift funding priorities to projects that will provide the most benefit and relieve the most congestion.

Build Regional Connections

We need to continue to work to bridge connections between our mass transit systems. By working to make it convenient and more accessible for people to ride we can reduce the number of cars on the road. By prioritizing connection projects we can strengthen our existing transportation infrastructure.

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Carpool Lane Conversion

Successful projects in Southern California have converted High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. HOT lanes are HOV lanes (for carpools of two or more, vanpools and buses) that are also open to solo drivers who pay a toll. Toll rates adjust electronically to ensure that traffic in the HOT lane is free flowing (at least 45 miles per hour 90 percent of the time) even when the regular lanes are congested. HOT lanes provide toll-free express trips for buses, vanpools and carpools of two or more, and also give solo drivers the option to pay for a faster, more reliable trip when they need it the most.

Incentives for Fuel Efficient Car Use

California should offer tax breaks or other incentives for consumers who choose efficient, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. I would pursue tax credits, rebates, exemption from sales taxes, and discounts on toll roads. I would also propose for companies with fleets of more than 50 vehicles, which contain at least 10% alternative fuel vehicles, receive a tax credit of half the difference in price between those vehicles and their conventional gasoline counterparts.

Pay As You Drive Insurance (PAYD)

Pay as you drive (PAYD) insurance policies charge drivers for actual car use. They still incorporate traditional rate factors like driver history, location, and vehicle type, but charge on a per-mile or per-minute basis. These policies also reward drivers who minimize their driving, and encourage low-income individuals or families with second cars to own auto insurance, decreasing the overall number of uninsured drivers on the road.

High Speed Rail

I fully support the bond measure on the November ballot to build a high speed rail system in California. California's high-speed train system will increase mobility while cutting air pollution and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. High speed rail will relieve traffic congestion by keeping cars off the roads. By moving people and goods quicker and cheaper than we do now, the system will boost our productivity and the state economy.