



News from **Councilmember Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:
May 12, 2009

A Solution to San Diego's Road Woes *Councilmember Gloria Addresses Report on Poor Street Conditions*

SAN DIEGO, CA (May 12, 2009) – San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria today advocated for additional infrastructure funding and transit use in response to a report from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) which determined that more than half the roads in San Diego were in poor condition.

"The fact that our roads are falling apart is not surprising news to anyone who drives in our City. The real news is that the City of San Diego is investing in our streets," said Councilmember Gloria. "By October 2010, more than 60 miles of streets in Council District Three will be slurry sealed or overlaid to improve their condition and extend their lives."

Thanks to funds from the City's \$103 Infrastructure Bond, State Proposition 42, State Proposition 1B and trenching fees, San Diego is accelerating its progress on addressing its growing deferred maintenance list.

As stated in AASHTO's report, "Rough Roads Ahead: Fix Them Now or Pay Later," the costs of sustaining deteriorating roads is significantly higher than maintaining roads that are in good condition.

"Waiting for our roads to fail is absolutely foolish," said Councilmember Gloria, "Spending \$1 to maintain our decent roads is much smarter than spending \$7 to reconstruct them once they fail."

He noted that infrastructure below the roads is often the cause of potholes and other street surface problems. "San Diego's streets are part of an expansive infrastructure network, including water and wastewater pipes, much of which is literally crumbling beneath us," said the Councilmember, who chairs the City Council's Committee on Land Use and Housing (LU&H), which has jurisdiction over infrastructure and transit issues, among other things.

One of the contributing factors to worsening road conditions described in AASHTO's report is the number of cars that travel on them. Decreased personal use of cars in favor of public transportation is another means of addressing the issue, according to Councilmember Gloria. Though not discussed specifically by AASHTO, an effective and efficient transit system would take some cars off San Diego's roads or at least reduce car trips. The Councilmember will continue to fight for improved transit and more infrastructure funding through his positions on LU&H, the City Council, the Metropolitan Transit System Board and SANDAG.

"I am very pleased that 60 miles of streets in the neighborhoods of Mid-City will be repaired in the coming year, but more must be done," said Councilmember Gloria. "Council District Three's communities are at least 100 years old, and preserving them through regular maintenance is an effort worth pursuing with community input and support."

###

To schedule an interview with Councilmember Gloria about these issues, please contact Katie Keach, 858-245-7673 or kkeach@sandiego.gov.