



® June 20, 2019

1100 K Street  
Suite 101  
Sacramento  
California  
95814

Telephone  
916.327.7500

Facsimile  
916.441.5507

The Honorable Jim Frazier  
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3091  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 137 (Dodd): Federal transportation funds: state exchange programs  
As Amended on June 18, 2019 – SPONSOR  
Set for hearing in Assembly Transportation Committee – July 1, 2019**

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is proud to sponsor SB 137 by Senator Dodd. This bill 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 county 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.

For these reasons, CSAC is proud to sponsor SB 137. If you need additional information, please contact me at 916.650.8180 or [clee@counties.org](mailto:clee@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chitj'.

Christopher Lee  
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senate  
Members and Consultants, Assembly Transportation Committee  
Melissa White, Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee  
Daniel Ballon, Assembly Republican Consultant