CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposition 6 on the November 2018 ballot

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SUMMARY

Proposition 6 is a constitutional amendment initiative on the November ballot that would repeal “The Road Repair and Accountability Act” (SB 1 – Beall) taxes and fees designated for road repairs and public transportation and require voter approval for future state fuel and vehicle taxes. Staff will make a brief presentation on this item.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt a resolution opposing Proposition 6 on the November 2018 ballot.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2018-125 opposing Proposition 6 on the November 2018 ballot.

BACKGROUND

“The Road Repair and Accountability Act” (SB 1 – Beall) was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor last year. It raises $5 billion annually in long-term, dedicated transportation funding for roadway maintenance and repairs as well as for transit operations and maintenance.

On March 5th, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution 2018-29 supporting Proposition 69 on the June 2018 ballot, opposing the proposed November ballot proposition (Attorney General #17-0033), and supporting the Coalition to Protect Local Transportation Improvements, a diverse coalition of local government, business, labor, transportation and other organizations in support of Proposition 69 and opposing the repeal of SB 1.

Proposition 69 passed in June 2018, adding additional accountability for taxpayers by preventing the State Legislature from diverting or raiding any new transportation revenues for non-transportation improvement purposes.
The ballot proposition Attorney General #17-0033 is now identified as Proposition 6 on the November 2018 ballot. ‘The Coalition to Protect Local Transportation Improvements’ is now called ‘No on Prop 6’.

On September 27th, 2018, the Traffic and Safety Commission reviewed the impacts of Proposition 6 and recommended that the City Council oppose the proposition.

**DISCUSSION**

The proposed action would clearly identify to Albany residents and neighboring cities that the City opposes Proposition 6.

**ANALYSIS**

The repeal of SB 1 would eliminate a projected $300,000 annually from the City of Albany capital improvement budget, reducing street rehabilitation funding by 25%. It would cut over $40 million per year in local road maintenance and safety funds across Alameda County and over $33 million in transit operating and maintenance funds for AC Transit and BART.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Street rehabilitation allows the City to maintain existing infrastructure before more costly repairs are needed. Better roadway conditions improve safety, increase fuel efficiency, and allow vehicles to last longer by reducing wear and tear. When a roadway is resurfaced, the City can also make related curb ramp, signage, and striping improvements, implementing elements of the Active Transportation Plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Resolution No. 2018-125 has no financial impact on the City. If Proposition 6 passes, the anticipated financial impact is a direct loss of $300,000 per year in street rehabilitation funding and direct losses to regional transportation agencies including Caltrans, AC Transit, and BART.

**NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue to communicate the use of SB 1 funding for City projects in upcoming Albany eNews and social media posts.

**Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2018-125
RESOLUTION NO. 2018-125

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION OF
PROPOSITION 6, A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON
THE NOVEMBER 2018 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS, California’s cities, counties and transportation agencies face a statewide backlog of over $130 billion in needed funds to make transportation infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, “The Road Repair and Accountability Act” (SB 1 – Beall) passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor last year will raise $5 billion annually in long-term, dedicated transportation funding to make road safety improvements, fill potholes and repair local streets, highways, bridges and overpasses, with the revenues split equally between state and local government projects; and

WHEREAS, SB 1 contains strong accountability provisions to streamline projects by cutting bureaucratic redundancies and red tape to ensure transportation funds are spent efficiently and effectively, while also establishing the independent office of Transportation Inspector General to perform audits, improve efficiency and increase transparency; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 69, passed in June 2018, adding additional accountability for taxpayers by preventing the State Legislature from diverting or raiding any new transportation revenues for non-transportation improvement purposes; and

WHEREAS, by repealing SB 1, Proposition 6 would eliminate a projected three hundred thousand dollars annually from the City of Albany capital improvement budget, reducing street rehabilitation funding by twenty-five percent; and
WHEREAS, on March 5th, 2018, the Council of the City of Albany approved that the City of Albany be listed as a member of the Coalition to Protect Local Transportation Improvements, a diverse coalition of local government, business, labor, transportation and other organizations throughout the state, in opposition to the repeal of SB1; and

WHEREAS, on March 5th, 2018, the Council of the City of Albany took a position opposing the ballot proposition Attorney General #17-0033 to repeal the new transportation revenues provided by SB 1 and make it more difficult to increase funding for state and local transportation improvements in the future; and

WHEREAS, the ballot proposition Attorney General #17-0033 will appear on the November 2018 General Election ballot as Proposition 6; and

WHEREAS, on September 27th, 2018, the Traffic and Safety Commission of the City of Albany recommended that the City Council take a position in opposition to Proposition 6.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Albany hereby opposes Proposition 6 on the November 2018 General Election ballot, a constitutional amendment that would repeal the new transportation funds and make it more difficult to raise state and local transportation funds in the future.

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PEGGY MCQUAID, MAYOR