

**SECRETARY DAVID KIM OPENING REMARKS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 9, 2019**

I'd like to make a few points regarding the Governor's Executive Order on climate change, which was issued on September 20, 2019.

This has been the subject of much discussion in transportation circles, and I think it's important to set the record straight on a number of fronts.

First, let's start with the basics. An executive order does not supersede existing state law.

SB 1 funds are constitutionally-protected under Article 19 and an executive order does not change that fact.

Second, we're going to continue the "fix it first" approach outlined in SB 1. Maintaining the condition of our highways, roads and bridges is of the utmost importance to the Governor – and I want to assure you this effort will continue to move forward.

Having said that, let's also recognize a few things.

First, we are legally required to meet climate goals through AB 32 and SB 32.

As you may know, the transportation sector contributes over 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Therefore, we must take the necessary steps to reduce the share of greenhouse gas emissions that come from the transportation sector.

I think it's vital for everyone to understand that we are mandated and obligated to go in this direction. And setting aside statutory requirements, we can all agree that tackling climate change is the right thing to do.

So, we've come to the point where it's time for all of us in the transportation world to have a different kind of conversation. We need to rethink how transportation planning and investments are executed and what the desired outcomes ought to be.

I want to make clear that the Governor's Executive Order is just the beginning of that conversation, not the end.

We're going to approach this in a way that makes sense from the standpoint of the economy, jobs and income inequality.

We also have a fiscal responsibility to spend our transportation dollars wisely – that means directing available resources to projects that make the most progress toward our climate goals.

And we're also going to be pragmatic and collaborative in how we get there.

To that end, the Administration will be developing an implementation plan and we want your input. It is very important for us to have the public involved in the conversation.

Madame Chair, I wanted to convey these points as a way of setting the stage for tomorrow's meeting when the Commission will receive a more detailed presentation on the Executive Order.

Thank you.