



Press Release

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Compton Officials and Business Urge the State to Allocate \$30 Million of Federal Funds to Reconstruct the Artesia Bridge *Bridge Closed for Over a Year and Has Cost Businesses Up to \$400,000 Per Week*

Compton, CA – Today, Compton City Officials, State Representatives, and businesses gathered at the site of the Artesia Bridge to request \$30 million in funding from the state for the reconstruction of the heavily damaged bridge. The bridge was closed off in December 2020, after a fire rendered the bridge unsafe to use, compromising the steel grinders and concrete in the bridge.

“This bridge is a vital connection point for our residents, commuters, and businesses who travel between the 91 freeway, Port of Long Beach, or neighboring cities,” said Compton Mayor Emma Sharif. “With more than \$4 billion headed California’s way for bridge repairs and replacements, we need to ensure that funds from the federal infrastructure bill are allocated to the Artesia Bridge.”

The Artesia Bridge is a vital access route for businesses and residents of Compton and commuters. Since the closure, the movement of goods has been severely impacted causing trucks to be redirected, increasing the cost and time of deliveries, further compounded by the existing issues at the Port. Local businesses have reported losses of \$150,000 to \$400,000 per week in sales which have impacted the City’s general fund, limiting funding available for public services.

“People that live, work and commute through Compton deserve safe and reliable infrastructure. Poorly kept infrastructure causes unsafe driving conditions and burdens the community with additional vehicle repair costs,” said State Senator Steven Bradford. “One of my top priorities in the legislature is improving the safety and security of my constituents. I am happy to help secure funds in the state budget for the infrastructural development in the City of Compton. We must continue to make investments and work to improve the lives of all Californians.”

The public safety of Compton residents has been impacted by the closure of the bridge which has led to dangerous road conditions, increasing the number of traffic incidents reported due to motorists driving through the barriers.

“I have witnessed two different accidents that have taken place roughly 30 minutes apart due to the closure of the bridge. It is our priority to keep our residents safe,” shared Councilwoman Lillie Darden. We need the State of California to provide the necessary funding to reconstruct and repair the vital infrastructure of the bridge.”

Mayor Emma Sharif and Councilwoman Darden were joined by Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Mark Pestrella, Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, Haig Kelegian, President and CEO of Crystal Casino, City of Compton staff, and local businesses in support of state funding for that Artesia Bridge.

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