



The California Asphalt Pavement Association

2025 OFFICERS Sept. 12, 2025

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The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 289 (Haney) – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom:

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Russell W. Snyder, CAE
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On behalf of the members of the California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA), we respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 289 by Assemblymember Matt Haney. AB289 takes a significant step toward safeguarding the lives of highway construction workers by authorizing a pilot program so that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) can deploy up to 35 automated speed enforcement cameras in active highway construction zones statewide. The cameras can only issue citations when construction workers are present.

Highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most hazardous occupations. In 2021, more than 9,500 collisions occurred in construction zones on California highways. This resulted in an estimated 2,971 injuries and 73 fatalities, including both construction workers and motorists. While contractors, labor unions, state agencies, and law enforcement are doing everything in their power to keep workers safe, highway construction zones continue to be unacceptably dangerous for workers, who risk injury and death from speeding vehicles. Over the past three years, there have been five work fatalities and 19 serious injuries that were the result of vehicles entering construction zones. In 2023 alone, there were more than 100 vehicle intrusions into highway construction work zones.

By harnessing the proven effectiveness of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), AB289 will reduce construction-zone crashes and create a safer environment for California's highway construction workers and for California drivers. At least 16 other states have implemented ASE in active construction work zones. Pennsylvania saw a more than a 19% reduction in work zone crashes after implementing ASE. Two years after Maryland launched their work zone ASE program, speeding violations through construction sites decreased by more than 80%. In recognition of these and other proven safety benefits, the Federal Highway Administration identified speed safety cameras as a proven safety countermeasure in 2021, making these programs eligible for federal transportation safety funding.

AB289 includes essential protections for drivers and limitations on civil penalties that meet or exceed the provisions included in the existing local government pilot programs authorized by AB645 (Ch. 808, Stats. 2023) and SB1297 (Ch. 631, Stats. 2024). Caltrans must publicize the program in the media and deploy warning signage at construction sites where cameras are deployed, and all initial violations up to 15 mph over the speed limit are warnings. Fines are capped for all drivers and reduced for lower-income drivers. AB289 also bans the use of facial recognition technology through ASE, exempts records of citations from disclosure under the California Public Records Act, precludes Caltrans from sharing data or using data for purposes other than administration of the program, limits how long data can be retained, and requires that the cameras only capture photographic evidence of violations.

California's construction workers should not have to put their lives at risk to maintain and build our state's highways; especially when California could authorize an available tool to equitably and effectively slow down drivers, reduce collisions, and ultimately save lives of construction workers and the motoring public alike. For these reasons and more, we urge you to sign AB289 into law.

The California Asphalt Pavement Association, founded in 1953, is the oldest and largest construction trade association that focuses exclusively on the asphalt pavement industry in California. Our members include asphalt producers, refiners, paving contractors, testing labs, consultants, equipment manufacturers and many other related companies that make up the multibillion-dollar industry. Asphalt is an essential component of our transportation infrastructure, covering 95% of paved surfaces across California.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 791-5044 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell W. Snyder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RUSSELL W. SNYDER, CAE
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Matt Haney, California Assembly
Myles White, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom