

## **John Sawyer**

**Local government is responsible for building and maintaining its own infrastructure, especially our roads. Sonoma County is responsible for maintaining its local roads outside of the city boundaries – with the exception of State and Federal Highways. I know that today many Sonoma County roads are classified as poor, merely one level above failing. The County’s expansive 1,382 mile long network of roads have been left largely untouched. Currently only 16% of our roads are being “fully maintained” – while nearly 85% have long been neglected.**

**I believe we need to set county road maintenance as a major priority. It is an economic development, public safety and quality of life issue.**

**As for maintaining our roads, we should set a standard of maintenance that not only rids our roads of pot holes and cracks but makes sure our roads are sealed every three to four years. Sealing our roads aids in structural integrity and longevity, enabling us to reduce future maintenance costs.**

**Recently, I put forth a plan to save tax dollars, increasing revenue to our County. This plan addresses issues such as pension reform and zero-based performance monitoring and budget sustainability. Implementing the plan over five years will save more than \$100,000,000. I recommend we divert some of these saving toward a road maintenance program.**

**In addition, part of my transportation plan suggests we present to voters a change in Measure M’s expenditure plan creating more flexibility in road maintenance and repair. Currently, Measure M limits these expenditures to 20%. This needs to increase to a percentage that will allow our County to maintain our roads for the next two or three decades. To accomplish this, an extension of Measure M would be necessary. Prudent management of current resources is also vital to our success.**