Let’s give credit where credit is due.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman and Assembly Minority Leader George Plescia, came together last week to put a historic infrastructure bond measure on the November ballot. The legislature passed the measure and we will have our chance, for the first time in decades, to invest systematically in improving the state’s crumbling infrastructure.

Congratulations and good work to all those involved in making this happen. Just a few months ago it appeared that the governor’s proposal to begin investing in infrastructure would not make the light of public debate because of partisan bickering that delineated it from the June ballot.

The measure is nowhere near the size or scope of what was proposed in the governor’s Strategic Growth Plan, but it is a good start. The plan calls for $37.5 billion in new bonds when, paired with other resources, represents $116 billion in investment for our state in transportation, air quality, education, flood prevention and housing.

The Capitol was united last week in its bipartisanship. Democrats and Republicans, northerners and southerners, liberals and conservatives all worked together to come to this point. It doesn’t happen that often, so it was a welcome sign. But the battle to pass the bond issue will require that this bipartisanship continue through the election.

We have a gubernatorial election in November and already the credit game is beginning. Candidates are accepting the glory and minimizing the contributions of others. Parties are taking credit on the one hand but placing blame for delays on the other. With enough credit to go around for everyone, we cannot afford to allow this to continue. Any negativity could doom the bond to defeat.

And that’s The Business Perspective.