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June 24, 2010

The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 5158
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Support Position for AB 2098

Dear Assembly Member Lowenthal:

On behalf of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors, I am writing to inform you that OCTA has taken a support position on AB 2098, which seeks to support and clarify the ability of the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) to utilize the design-build method for the Riverside Freeway (SR-91) project.

OCTA has been a long and active partner in supporting Riverside's efforts to extend the 91 Express Lanes facility into Riverside County, including the partnership resulting in approval of SB 1316 (Chapter 714, Statutes of 2008).

In April, the California Transportation Commission approved RCTC's SR-91 project using the authority granted under SBX2 4 (Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009). However, threats to use legal maneuvers to stall the project have necessitated the introduction of this bill. This measure will provide the necessary clarification to allow RCTC's project to move forward using design-build authority, ensuring cost and schedule certainty for this project that will provide approximately 18,000 jobs to our region by 2011.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding OCTA's position on AB 2098, please contact Wendy Villa, State Relations Manager, at (714) 560-5595.

Sincerely,

Jerry Amante
Chairman

JA:ww

c: Members of the Assembly Transportation Committee
Will Kempton, Chief Executive Officer
Orange County State Legislative Delegation
Sloat Higgins Jensen & Associates

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