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May 26, 2009

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
Chair, Senate Housing and Transportation Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Lowenthal:

RE: AB 729

On behalf of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors, I am writing to inform you that OCTA supports AB 729, which extends the sunset provision that allows transit operators to enter into design-build contracts for construction projects. Extending the provision to January 1, 2015, provides transit agencies throughout the state with a valuable tool to continue expediting transit projects to save both time and money.

With the continued allocation of Proposition 1B dollars and new allocations from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the extension of this sunset provision will allow transit operators to continue using design-build for ongoing and new transit projects beyond the current sunset date of 2011. OCTA fully understands the benefits associated with using design-build and intends to use design-build to purchase and install video surveillance equipment for the Santa Ana Metrolink Train Station. Due to the proprietary nature of the technology, OCTA is able to capitalize on the design-build method to minimize costs associated with change orders and project errors by using the same contractor for the entire project.

If passed, AB 729 would provide this valuable, time saving, cost effective tool for transit operators for an additional four years. If you or your staff have any questions regarding OCTA's position on AB 729, please call Wendy Villa, State Relations Manager, at (714) 560-5595.

Sincerely,



Peter Buffa
Chairman

PB:msl

c: Assemblymember Noreen Evans
Members of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Orange County State Legislative Delegation
Sloat Higgins Jensen & Associates