



500 S. Main Street, Suite #410, Orange, CA 92868 | P: (714) 953-1300 | F: (714) 953-1302 | www.ACCOC.org

April 20, 2017

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249-0060

RE: AB 179 (Cervantes) California Transportation Commission. – OPPOSE.

Dear Assembly Member Cervantes:

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its opposition to the proposed legislation Assembly Bill 179 (Cervantes), which would restructure the California Transportation Commission (CTC). By imposing very specific expertise requirements on future appointments to the Commission, AB 179 fundamentally undermines the commission's right to restructure its own board.

AB 179 would require that a separate member have “training and experience” in the following areas: (1) sustainable transportation that includes addressing bicycle and pedestrian safety issues in transportation (2) sustainable transportation that includes addressing transit issues (3) public health effects of transportation (4) climate change mitigation (5) air pollution. AB 179 also requires that two commission members have “worked directly with those communities in the state that are most significantly burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution”. Out of the nine voting members of the commission, seven would have to be specialists in environmental issues.

There is no doubt that environmental policy and sustainable transportation are important issues that deserve attention from the transportation sector. But the role of the CTC is much larger than simply championing these issues; the CTC plays an important role in contributing to overall transparency and accountability for transportation in California. And in service of this role, the CTC relies heavily upon the range of experiences, ideas, and backgrounds that its voting members bring to the table. Rather than embracing the necessity of diverse opinions, AB 179 is plainly seeking to advance a singular policy objective.

The CTC reports that its staff has extensive experience in areas such as transportation engineering, planning, programming, and funding, as well as expertise and practice in the development of statewide transportation policy. The CTC regularly engages with legislators, federal, state, regional, and local partners, as well as elected officials and legislative staff, to manage statewide transportation funding programs and develop cutting-edge transportation policy. Ignoring the value of such a wide range of experiences and knowledge, in favor of promoting a singular expertise, is a mistake.



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The social and economic well-being of California's cities is of paramount importance to ACC-OC. For this and the reasons described above, the Association of California Cities – Orange County opposes AB 179. Should you have any questions about our position or about ACC-OC, please contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director, at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Stratman
Chief Executive Officer
Association of California Cities – Orange County

CC:

Orange County Legislative Delegation
ACC-OC Board of Directors