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February 6, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, California Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

**RE: AB 28 (Frazier) Department of Transportation: environmental review process:
federal pilot program – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher,

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its support for Assembly Bill 28 (Frazier). ACC-OC was founded in 2011 representing the interests of Orange County cities and regional partners, including the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). We serve as advocates for local control at the regional, State, and Federal levels. ACC-OC retains an unrelenting focus on protecting and restoring local control, and believes that AB 28 will help cities and counties in the process of implementing transportation services to their constituents.

AB 28 would continue to allow California's participation with the United States Secretary of Transportation's surface transportation project delivery pilot program. This bill would allow state and local agencies to maintain and carry out certain responsibilities for environmental review and clearance of transportation projects that would otherwise be the responsibility of the federal government. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), establishes the broad national framework for protecting our environment, and is considered any time a major federal infrastructure project is proposed. These NEPA considerations would be a part of the responsibilities absorbed by our state. Additionally, this bill is considered an urgency measure because it would further extend California's consent to participation in the pilot program, past the expired January 1, 2017 date.

This bill would specifically benefit Orange County by expediting the NEPA review through the implementation of the process by local agencies including, OCTA. OCTA has been able to cut the time it took federal reviewers to conduct this process by nearly a year. This has resulted in major gains for the entire Southern California region because of the expedited improvements to our freeways including, State Route (SR) 57, SR- 55 and SR-91. Orange County has invested billions of locally funded dollars into highway

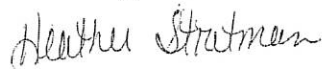


maintenance and improvement; without AB 28 we could see a delay in those major infrastructure investments – negatively affecting our entire region.

AB 28 allows CalTrans and local agencies to continue to invest in transportation networks that benefit the whole state in a more efficient and effective manner. For this and the reasons described above, the Association of California Cities – Orange County is proud to support AB 28.

Should you have any questions about our position or about the ACC-OC, please contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org. We hope to be a resource to you and look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,



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

cc:

The Hon. Jim Frazier
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Orange County State Legislative Delegation
ACC-OC Board of Directors
ACC-OC Legislative & Regulatory Committee