



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Wendy Bucknum
Mayor

Edward Sachs
Mayor Pro Tem

Brian Goodell
Council Member

Trish Kelley
Council Member

Greg Rath
Council Member

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Mimi Walters
U.S. House of Representatives
45th District
236 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Darrell Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
49th District
2347 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Pat Bates
California State Senate
36th District
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bill Brough
California State Assembly
73rd District
State Capitol, Room 3141
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: **Support for the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) Efforts in Relieving Traffic Congestion**

Dear Honorable Walters, Honorable Issa, Honorable Bates, and Honorable Brough:

Over the course of the last two years, the City of Mission Viejo's City Council has been engaged with the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) to study the worsening traffic problems in our South Orange County region. Through our engagement, our City, along with other South Orange County elected officials, participated in the "South Orange County Mobility Working Group" where we received a myriad of presentations on variables impacting the region including demographic changes, projected traffic growth and environmental considerations, to name a few.

This group of elected officials unanimously supported the implementation of a transparent and inclusive public outreach process to seek public input on how to best relieve traffic congestion. Through that process, eighteen (18) ideas for improving our transportation infrastructure were received and considered. Those ideas included Mobility Hubs, greater train frequency, widening the I-5, bike lanes, and connecting the SR-241 to the I-5 among others.

As the City of Mission Viejo's City Council, we support the TCA's efforts to identify a balanced solution to relieving regional, and particularly north-south traffic congestion, which we believe must include an SR-241 to I-5 connection. Except for San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, every South County city has positively worked with transportation leaders to establish incorporate toll road network connections through our cities to alleviate traffic congestion for the region. We hope those two cities will join our effort to collaborate on solutions rather than simply obstructing.



Honorable Walters, Honorable Issa,
Honorable Bates, and Honorable Brough
RE: Support for TCA's Efforts in Relieving Traffic Congestion
May 31, 2017
Page 2 of 2

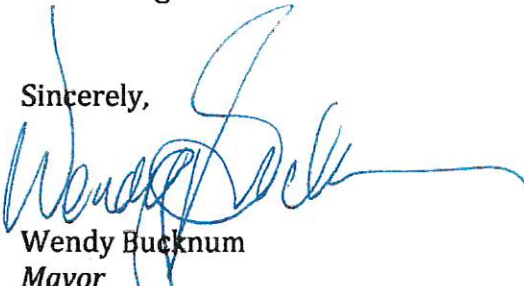
We have listened to our residents' concerns regarding traffic congestion and consistently pursued meaningful solutions. It is unfortunate that some are choosing not to participate constructively in a process that finally brought the kind of openness we support and invite in government planning. Some professional organizers have knowingly circulated false information and should be held responsible for misleading the public when they should instead join the South Orange County community in looking to solve our worsening traffic problems. These problems adversely affect the regions quality of life, including people trying to get to their jobs and their families, often times, causing the missing of precious life moments because of gridlock on I-5.

We strongly support the TCA's public outreach process and their effort to move forward with conducting formal environmental and technical studies of these ideas to identify a solution that achieves the objectives that are important to the City of Mission Viejo such a:

1. Reducing northbound and southbound traffic congestion along the I-5 between the El Toro interchange and the San Diego County border.
2. Increase the number of alternative routes for all our communities.
3. Prevent the use of eminent domain for the acquisition of residential properties.
4. Support the protection of our natural wonders, including Trestles, the California State Park and the San Mateo Watershed.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated support on working together to relieve our traffic congestion.

Sincerely,



Wendy Bucknum
Mayor
City Council of the City of Mission Viejo

c: TCA Directors
South County City Council Members

