



INTEROFFICE MEMO

November 16, 2017

To: Legislative and Communications Committee

From:  Laurena Weinert, Clerk of the Board

Subject: **November 16, 2017 Legislative and Communications Meeting, Item 4 - Orange County Transportation Authority 2017-18 State and Federal Legislative Platforms – Public Comments**

The Clerk of the Board Department received public comments for the above noted agenda Item 4 for the November 16, 2017 Legislative and Communications Committee meeting.

A total of 35 public comments were received between November 13 – 15 and provided, are examples of the public comments (Examples A, B, and C).

Listed below are the additional comments included in Example A, as follows:

- Example A - 33 comments received and 10 of the comments included an extra statement of:
  - No more support of the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) (3 comments).
  - The community is deeply pained at the thought of our beautiful community being torn up. Thank you for listening. People matter.
  - San Clemente residents would draw a line right over, under, or next to our homes, parks, schools, and destroy our ridgelines and trails for generations to come.
  - OCTA make our roads better. TCA is just trying to prolong their extinction by bulldozing our town.
  - Concerned about costs, air pollution around schools and in neighborhoods, and misinformation with regard to its necessity. Please save our children and our community.
  - As a resident of beautiful San Clemente I'm asking you to not support the TCA. Building the 241 extension through our town is unacceptable.
  - Do not support the corrupt TCA. The TCA needs to be dissolved immediately.
  - We do not want the TCA to butcher our town with their Toll Road & endless greed! Period!

**Subject:** OCTA Legislative and Communications Committee Meeting 11/16/17. No more support of TCA.

Dear OCTA Committee members,

I am aware that Barbie Daly from the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) is coming to make a comment about TCA collaboration with Caltrans and OCTA. In the agenda, TCA has concerns about the staff report being modified to remove supportive language of TCAs so called mission to find mobility solutions in South Orange County. Please remember that TCA only builds toll roads so it is very likely they will push for their toll road extension over other less invasive mobility options such as improving mass transit, new arterials, and future technologies such as self-driving cars. Also on the agenda, TCA has concerns that it is not recognized for its so called collaborative efforts between Caltrans and OCTA to determine the 20 mobility solutions that were put forth by the public. Again, I question the public's involvement in choosing these routes, as it appears the only support the TCA has from its paid consultants.

To date the TCA has not had any meaningful public input, in fact they have been practicing opposition suppression on a regular basis. All of the proposed options would be catastrophic and build through existing neighborhoods, over our homes, parks, schools and destroy our ridgelines and trails, not acceptable, one route would affect over 9,000 homes. Thousands of residents attended the 3rd Public Forum on June 5th at Saddleback College in opposition where the TCA did not make accommodations for the public they had invited. The concerned residents in South Orange County are in utter shock that a toll road company with a questionable financial past (including a massive tax bailout of 1.1 Billion Dollars and junk bond status) would have any support of politicians and transportation agencies that would allow them to disrespect hard working concerned residents and destroy the quality of life for so many with an economically discriminating underused toll road. Darell Issa, Pat Bates, William Brough, CAPO Unified Schools District and Rancho Mission Viejo have all come out AGAINST the proposed toll road routes.

Please DO NOT give TCA any continued support in their mission. The solutions are not useless toll roads as that is becoming an outdated, obsolete mode of transportation. Look at the future....Congress is speeding up bills to make it possible to buy a driver-less car in California by 2020. I have even discussed in prior emails, such subtle changes like LED speed limit signs to adjust to traffic, new arterials if needed to connect to major arterials, make Amtrak/Metrolink trains more convenient to use during summer weekends. On the radio, Los Angeles is advertising its purple line Metro trains and construction on that line resulting in road closures. If a major metropolitan county such as Los Angeles isn't building more highways/toll roads why should we? 6 areas are trying to take down their freeways since economic blight follows freeways. Please remove any 241 extension plans from all master plans and let the TCA know it is time they start paying down the debt - unsuccessful business do not get to expand. Many are concerned about affordable housing in Orange County - please keep in mind the development fees the TCA takes for all homes and remodels and know this is one factor that drives up our housing costs in Southern California. Also, the Toll Road are underused - if the TCA was truly concerned about mobility they would make the toll roads free on the weekends to really get cars moving.

We support mobility solutions in Orange County - free arterials - expand the arterials that needs to be expanded. Do not let the TCA build another underused road. Cal Trans has in the past let the freeways deteriorate to try and drive ridership onto the toll roads - this is unacceptable.

Thank you for your time.

**Subject:** Upcoming OCTA Legislative and Communications Committee Meeting 11/16/17 -  
Please No Toll Road Through San Clemente

Dear OCTA Committee member,

As you prepare for your upcoming Legislative and Communications Committee Meeting, I want to ask for support in stopping the TCA from extending the 241 Toll Road through San Clemente. Please help stop this toll road running over homes in San Clemente. My community would be decimated if the toll road goes through San Clemente.

I don't understand why there even needs to be a private freeway with a 65-mile per hour speed limit right next to (and at one point directly over an arterial road named Antonio Parkway and La Pata (a free public highway), which also has a 65-mile per hour speed limit in sections. It is very convenient to run down the current 241, hop onto Antonio, which turns into La Pata, zip down to Pico and get back on the 5 freeway. Irvine is that way - the end of the 261 toll road runs straight down to Jamboree and nobody seems to have a problem to transition from toll road to city streets.

I don't see why so many homes need to be destroyed to shave off a few minutes of a drive. The 5 freeway is almost done and it looks AMAZING! La Pata is almost finished and it will be FANTASTIC. I think traffic will run very smoothly once construction is finished. I have been living through roadwork for so many years now, I can't imagine having to start again with the toll road extension.

The main reason we bought our beautiful home in the Forster Ranch neighborhood of San Clemente was because it was quiet. It reminded me of my childhood home - in a quiet neighborhood that backed up to rolling hills. The real estate agent assured us that the land at the end of Camino de los Mares was protected land and would never be built on. I now have three small children at the local elementary school. We love it and I can't imagine having a toll road running so close to our home and school.

Please help to stop this road. I would be so devastated if a toll road ran through our neighborhood. When I first heard I thought the person was joking, that there was no way something so crazy was possible. Please help stop this road from running through San Clemente.

**Subject:** Please support preservation of OC, NOT toll road extension

Dear OCTA Committee Members,

As an involved Orange County resident, parent, educator, road cyclist and commuter, I appreciate your efforts to improve the quality of life for residents of Orange County. I expect that you are actively investigating as many options as possible to preserve open space; decrease air, water, noise and light pollution; enhance walkable conditions for pedestrians and increase accessibility, frequency, affordability and efficiency of public transportation. As you are well aware, commitment and proper allocation of funds will alleviate traffic congestion and improve the quality of life for Orange County residents, but it will take time, education and careful coordination of multiple agencies, organizations, businesses and citizens. Please continue to support the preservation of existing open space, neighborhoods and local businesses by choosing sustainable mobility alternatives versus the TCA's proposed Foothill South Extension of the 241. The Foothill South Extension will have significant negative impacts to South Orange County residents. The current San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor (73) and the existing portion of the 241 already feature significant negative impacts for North and Central Orange County residents, including increases in wildfire frequency, roadkill rates for large mammals, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, irresponsible driving behavior, erosion/sedimentation and other consequences of urban sprawl. Please consider that thousands of residents attended the 3rd Public Forum on June 5th at Saddleback College and voiced their opposition of the Foothill South Extension of the 241. It is not a surprise that there is a lack of support for the TCA, considering the TCA received a tax bailout of 1.1 billion dollars and junk bond status. Please support preservation and sustainable alternatives by joining Darell Issa, Pat Bates, William Brough, CAPO Unified Schools District and Rancho Mission Viejo in the opposition of TCA's proposed Foothill South Extension of the 241. Thank you.