

AFFILIATED AGENCIES

Orange County Transit District

Local Transportation Authority

Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

Consolidated Transportation Service Agency

> Congestion Management Agency

September 22, 2025

Mr. Darnell Grisby Chair, California Transportation Commission 1120 N Street, MS-52 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for the SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Connector – AB 194 (Chapter 687, Statutes of 2015) Application

Dear Chair Grisby,

On behalf of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board), I am writing to express our support for the Transportation Corridor Agencies' (TCA) AB 194 (Chapter 687, Statutes of 2015) State Route 241/State Route 91 (SR-241/SR-91) Tolled Express Connector project. We appreciate the extensive coordination that has taken place over the past several years among the California Transportation Commission (CTC), TCA, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and OCTA to refine project features and help ensure that the improvements are well integrated with the 91 Express Lanes and the broader corridor. Our support is provided with the understanding that the project will not negatively impact the existing 91 Express Lanes financing commitments or current operating structure.

The SR-241/SR-91 Express Connector is an important regional mobility investment at one of Southern California's most congested interchanges. Motorists traveling between Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties currently experience significant delays where the SR-241 Toll Road meets the 91 Express Lanes. This project is intended to help address that issue by providing a seamless tolled connection that improves traffic operations at this junction. Together with other improvements already underway on the SR-91 corridor, including those led by OCTA in Orange County, RCTC in Riverside County, and joint efforts such as the 91 Corridor Operations Project, which will help deliver a more reliable and efficient travel experience for both commuters and goods movement across the region.

This project is included in both local and regional transportation planning efforts, including OCTA's Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan. TCA has committed full funding for the project, estimated at over \$500 million, through existing cash reserves. The project is currently in final design, with construction anticipated in the near term, and is being advanced in close coordination with OCTA, the

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California Department of Transportation, RCTC, and other regional partners to ensure its integration with parallel improvements on the SR-91corridor.

The intended benefits of the SR-241/SR-91 Express Connector include reduced congestion, improved travel reliability, and more efficient movement of people and goods along a major economic corridor. By offering a direct connection between tolled express facilities, it will offer drivers an additional travel option, while integrating with the overall operations of the SR-91 corridor.

The OCTA Board is committed to supporting projects that strengthen mobility, manage congestion, and improve the quality of life for the residents, businesses, and communities we serve. We respectfully support the TCA's AB 194 and appreciate CTC's consideration of this project.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to advancing transportation solutions across California. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, at (714) 560-5343 or djohnson@octa.net.

Sincerely,

Doug Chaffee

Chair

DC:aec

c: Members, Orange County State Legislative Delegation
Ryan Chamberlain, Chief Executive Officer, Transportation Corridor Agencies
Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Topp Strategies