

**Senate Transportation Committee Hearing
Tuesday, November 27, 2012
Ventura County Supervisors Chambers
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

***REMARKS by Mayor Jacqui Irwin
City of Thousand Oaks***

- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon.
- My name is Jacqui Irwin, Mayor of Thousand Oaks.
- City of Thousand Oaks has worked with **all** cities throughout Ventura County, and with cities in neighboring LA County, to provide transit services to our communities. We are **united** in providing long-term sustainable transit.
- Thousand Oaks has actively pursued regional transit for years. We have long supported transit service through the commuter and employment corridors of the Conejo and San Fernando Valleys and also downtown Los Angeles.
- Examples include:
 - 101/23 Interchange...Most active of all Ventura County Interchanges. Fed/State/City funding. Design is complete. Construction will commence by end of 2013.
 - 101/Wendy Interchange...March 2012 Groundbreaking. Under construction.
 - Approved Expansion of TO Regional Transportation Center—Last Month...to add 71 more parking spaces.

- However, over the past four years, TO has decreased the amount of TDA funds spent on Streets & Roads. We have **increased transit expenditures by over \$1 million annually**. Today our use of **TDA funds for streets and roads has decreased by 75%**.
- In 2007-08, TO spent \$3M (65%) of our TDA money on Streets & Roads. Today, we spend under \$980,000 (25%) of our TDA money on Streets & Roads.
- Several years ago TO entered into an agreement to provide Dial-a-Ride service for unincorporated areas of Ventura County and neighboring Westlake Village.
- Earlier this year, the Cities of Moorpark & TO entered into agreement to share bus and Dial-a-Ride services.
- MSC Expansion Groundbreaking—Sept 2012. This will provide additional bus storage, bus maintenance, etc. for TO and Moorpark buses.
- City recently increased hours of operations for Dial-a-Ride and expanded local bus service to match regional routes; including adding Saturday service.
- City has worked cooperatively to keep *LA Metro* and *Commuter Express* in Ventura County for those who rely on **service along the U.S. 101 from downtown LA to Santa Barbara**.
- City continues discussions with agencies **both inside & outside Ventura County** to obtain additional services.

- Through today’s testimony, our region has made significant strides:
 - VCTC adopted a transit plan as required by SB 716. Due to the numerous public meetings, the plan took a little longer to prepare. This speaks to the number of complexities facing transit providers within our County. Some challenges, including:
 - **Ventura is not a “self help” county.**
 - **Geographically we are diverse.** Among extensive open space & agriculture, the region features beach communities, rural towns, & urban areas.
 - **Cities vary in their density.** TO, for example, has less density than most cities. TO has less density per square mile than small cities such as Fillmore, Port Hueneme, and Santa Paula.
 - The Ventura County citiesplan was not developed in haste. It represents a thoughtful, united approach in putting forth the best customer centric plan and improving overall transit services without regard to individual city boundaries.
- As a region, we do not view this as aproponents vs. opponents issue. **We are all committed** to transit and continue to work together to improve.
- Our region requests an opportunity to work on legislation as anticipated by SB 716 cooperatively with the Committee and our legislators to ensure our shared commitment to regional transit throughout Ventura County is realized.

- **What would the legislation do?**
 1. **Clarify all cities under 100,000 population are treated equitably within the law.** Author of SB716, Senator Wolk, indicated her belief that Ventura County cities in this category were included in her bill.
 2. **Include flexibility necessary for larger cities to accomplish regional goals.**Merging transit systems and operations has a number of complexities and needs additional time.

Closing Comments:

1. Ventura County cities look forward to working with the State Legislature on addressing these areas.
2. The East County cities continue to move forward with the Regional Transportation Plan submitted to the legislature in April. We are committed to a robust East County Transit System and have a *draft Memorandum of Understanding* for cooperative system between Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark and Camarillo.
3. Each member of the Senate Transportation Committee, including Assemblymember Williams, is encouraged to visit with each City's local elected officials. We would welcome the opportunity to provide you with a personal tour of the local transit services we provide on a daily basis...and to discuss our future plans. and tour each City's local transit services.

Thank you.