



October 30, 2007

Secretary Dale E. Bonner
Business, Transportation, & Housing Agency
State of California
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Chairman James Ghielmetti
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Bonner and Chairman Ghielmetti,

**RE: Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF) – Proposed Program and Process –
Support for Southern California Working Group Recommendations**

On behalf of Provident Bank, I would like to express our support for the Southern California Working Group consensus efforts.

The Southern California Working Group is a coalition of transportation interests that have actively worked to develop a Southern California Trade Corridor consensus approach for investing in goods movement infrastructure while protecting the quality of life for local residents. They recently submitted comments to the Business, Transportation & Housing (BT&H) Agency on their materials distributed October 10th that describe the process for selecting projects for the \$2 billion Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF). Provident Bank supports the Southern California Working Group's comments and recommendations, including Reasonable Geographic Balance, Screening Criteria, and Project Ranking.

The Inland Empire's population is expected to double to 2.8 million by 2020. If transportation solutions are not developed, this would result in longer delays on the highways. Gridlock costs jobs and increases expenses. We understand that there are several challenges involved in solving California's transportation problems. A lack of state funding, expensive and time consuming planning process required for highway construction or building other transportation infrastructure.

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Provident Bank is vested in Southern California transportation issues, we respectfully urge you to support the Southern California consensus approach and maximize the level of goods movement investment for this region.

Sincerely,



Craig G. Blunden
President, CEO

cc: John Hummer, Deputy Secretary Goods Movement
Don Perata, President Pro Tempore Senate
Alan Lowenthal, Chair Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
Pedro Nava, Chair Assembly Transportation Committee
Senator Bob Dutton
Assemblymember John Benoit
Assemblymember Bill Immerson
Assemblymember Kevin Jeffries
Anne Mayer, Riverside County Transportation Commission