CALIFORNIA'S
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

c/o José A. Nuncio, Moderator, FY 2011-12
San Diego Association of Governments, 401 B Street, Ste. 800, San Diego, CA 92101

May 4, 2012

Daniel W. Hancock, Chairman
Milton Marks "Little Hoover" Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Government Reorganization Plan 2012

Dear Mr. Hancock:

On behalf of California's Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (Regions), I am writing to express our comments regarding the proposed California Transportation Agency that was the subject of Session 3 of the April 23rd Hearing on the Government Reorganization Plan 2012. We understand that while the Hearing has already occurred, these comments would be included as part of the record.

The Regions consider the Government Reorganization Plan 2012, and specifically the creation of a Transportation Agency a recognition of the importance of transportation to the state's economic well being. The consolidation of the various state departments and other statewide agencies devoted to transportation should foster a more productive response to the needs to the state in the area of transportation.

The Regions would like to express concern with the proposal to amend Section 13975 of the Government Code, which would place the California Transportation Commission (Commission) under the proposed Transportation Agency. Section 13978 of the Government Code gives the BT&H secretary "the power of general supervision over, and is directly responsible to the Governor for, the operations of each department, office, and unit within the agency. The secretary may issue such orders as the secretary deems appropriate to exercise any power or jurisdiction, or to assume or discharge any responsibility, or to carry out or effect any of the purposes vested by law in any department in the agency."

At this point, it is unclear how the proposed amendment to Section 13975 would affect the autonomy of the Commission. The Regions value the independent role that the Commission exercises as it advises the BT&H Agency and the Legislature on transportation policy, and as it evaluates the effectiveness of transportation policies and initiatives. The Regions also appreciate the Commission's oversight role over Caltrans and other various transportation programs. The Regions would support having the Commission maintain its autonomy and oversight role as other areas of the state are reorganized.

Should you have any questions regarding the Regions' concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at (619) 699-1908, or via email at jnu@sandag.org.

Sincerely,

José A. Nuncio

José A. Nuncio
Moderator, FY 2011-12
California's Regional Transportation Planning Agencies

Cc:
Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Chair, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair, California State Assembly Committee on Transportation
Joseph Tavaglione, Chair, California Transportation Commission