

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Dave Klotzle, City Engineer/Public Works Director 
Prepared by: Shaun Kroes, Senior Management Analyst 

DATE: March 9, 2012 (CC Meeting of 03/21/12)

SUBJECT: Consider Opposition to AB 1778 (Williams) Pertaining to Ventura County Transportation Commission: Local Transportation Funds

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

As City Council is aware, SB 716 (Wolk) requires that all Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds be spent on transit services effective July 1, 2014. SB 716 also provided the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) with an opportunity to provide a report to the Legislature by December 31, 2011, analyzing options and providing a recommendation for organizing public transit services and the future expenditure of local transportation fund revenues in Ventura County. The Ventura County transit operators, including the City of Moorpark, have been working with VCTC in the past few months to finalize the report to the Legislature.

On February 21, 2012, Assemblymember Das Williams introduced AB 1778 (Fact Sheet attached). The proposed legislation, if enacted, would amend the dates adopted in SB 716 for both the report from VCTC to the Legislature and implementation of the provisions of SB 716. Specifically, AB 1778 makes a report to the Legislature a mandated responsibility of VCTC as opposed to the report being optional under SB 716, while giving VCTC until January 31, 2013 to submit the report. AB 1778 would also require legislative action to be completed and implemented by June 30, 2013, instead of July 1, 2014. If subsequent amending legislation is not approved, all TDA funds in Ventura County would be restricted to transit purposes beginning July 2013.

VCTC has been making progress toward approval of a report to submit to the Legislature, and has reportedly been keeping the Legislature apprised of the progress. Any proposed legislation would appear to be premature, consequently, staff is

recommending that the City Council take a position of “oppose” on AB 1778. A proposed letter of opposition to the Legislature is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Oppose AB 1778 and authorize the Mayor to send a letter of opposition to the Legislature.

Attachments:

- 1 – AB 1778 Fact Sheet
- 2 – Draft Letter of Opposition

AB 1778 (Williams)
Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Local Transportation Funds

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 1778 requires the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to submit to the Legislature by January 31, 2013, a report on the reorganization of transit services and expenditure of local transportation funds. The bill stipulates that local transportation funds in Ventura County would be available solely for transit purposes beginning July 1, 2013, rather than July 1, 2014 which is current law, unless a legislative proposal in the report is enacted and implemented by June 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND

The Legislature enacted the Transportation Development Act (TDA), SB 325, Chapter 1400, Statutes of 1971, in order to ensure "the efficient and orderly movement of people and goods in the urban areas of the state." The TDA authorized the boards of supervisors in each county to impose a ¼-percent local sales tax for transportation purposes. All counties imposed the tax in 1972. To this end, revenues from the tax must be used for public transit purposes in counties with a population greater than 500,000 as of the 1970 census. Counties with a population under 500,000 as of 1970 may use the revenues for transit and for local streets and roads if they make the finding that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to be met.

In 2009, SB 716 (Wolk) updated the census numbers in SB 325 by requiring each county with a population of more than 500,000 as of the *2000 and any future federal census* to use its Local Transportation Funds (LTF) funds for transit. SB 716 also provided that the VCTC submit to the appropriate legislative policy committees a report analyzing options for organizing public mass transportation services in Ventura County and expending LTF revenues by December 31, 2011. VCTC has failed to complete the report and is now out of compliance with current law.

SB 716 additionally stipulated that if VCTC does not secure legislation to implement their proposed plan by the end of the 2011-12 legislative session, its LTF revenues would roll over for the exclusive use of public

transportation or community transit services beginning July 1, 2014.

NEED FOR THE BILL

The VCTC had two years to complete their countywide transit plan and shows no signs of completing a plan that's consistent with the provisions of SB 716: a comprehensive, county-wide plan for mass public transit.

Given that VCTC is out of compliance with the requirements of the law, this bill would move the timeline by which LTF funds must be used exclusively for transit purposes up from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2013. This early roll over of LTF funds can be avoided if the report is delivered by January 30, 2013 and is enacted and implemented by June 30, 2013.

The efficient and orderly movement of people and goods in urban counties is of paramount importance. Ventura County is an urban county with a population well over 500,000. Many transit dependent people in Ventura County are not being served because of the current diversion of these funds. They are in need of a comprehensive countywide transit plan consistent with the provisions of SB 716.

SUPPORT

- None on File

OPPOSITION

- None on File

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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CITY OF MOORPARK

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 21, 2012

The Honorable Das G. Williams
California State Assemblymember
State Capitol, 10 & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 1778 (Williams) – Transit

Dear Assemblymember Williams,

On behalf of the City of Moorpark, I express our **opposition** to AB 1778 which requires the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to submit to the Legislature by January 31, 2013, a report on the reorganization of transit services and expenditure of local transportation funds. The bill stipulates that local Ventura County transportation funds would be available solely for transit purposes beginning July 1, 2013, rather than July 1, 2014 which is current law, unless a legislative proposal is enacted and implemented by June 30, 2013.

The City has been working closely with VCTC in the past few months to move forward with a final report to the legislature. It is the City's understanding that VCTC intends on adopting a final report for submittal to the Legislature at its April 13, 2012 meeting. It is for that reason that the City believes AB 1778 is premature and places requirements on Ventura County that do not exist for any other county in California.

In closing, the City wants to bring to your attention factual errors which appeared in the Fact Sheet on AB 1778. As you know, SB 716 (Chapter 609, 2009 Statutes) authorizes (not requires) VCTC to submit a "...report analyzing options for organizing public mass transportation services in the county, for the expenditures of revenues deposited in the local transportation fund, and a recommended legislative proposal for implementing the plan..." References that VCTC is either not going to submit the report/plan or that VCTC is, "...out of compliance with current law" is not accurate with the direction of VCTC or provisions of SB 716. Any additional time that VCTC takes to finalize the report they are currently working on has been necessary as VCTC is working diligently to ensure that the plan takes into consideration all the concerns of multiple stakeholders (including the City) prior to submittal.

For these reasons, the City of Moorpark **opposes** AB 1778. Thank you for your consideration of the City's position on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Parvin
Mayor

C: Members, Assembly Transportation Committee; Ms. Janet Dawson, Principle Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee; Mr. Gregson Porteous, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus; Capital Representation Group, Inc.; Mr. Darren Kettle, Executive Director, VCTC; Assembly Member Jeff Gorell; Senator Tony Strickland; Honorable City Council; City Manager; League of California Cities