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# California State Assembly

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



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**Committee Secretary**  
Toni Zupan

1020 N Street, Room 112  
(916) 319-2093  
FAX: (916) 319-2193

### INFORMATIONAL HEARING

## “The Basics of Transportation Funding”

### Hearing Participants' Biographies

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#### **Jessica Peters, Fiscal and Policy Analyst** **Legislative Analyst's Office**

Jessica Peters is a Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). During her eight years with the LAO, Jessica has advised the Legislature primarily on transportation issues, including funding for transportation systems, opportunities for administrative efficiencies, improving highway project delivery, and public-private partnerships. She has also worked on public safety issues, including criminal justice realignment and state services to crime victims. Jessica enjoys the LAO's nonpartisan role and is passionate about crafting good public policy in a political world. Jessica received her M.A. in Economics from California State University, East Bay, and her B.A. in Environmental Economics from Humboldt State University.

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#### **Steven Keck, Chief Budget Officer** **California Department of Transportation**

Steven Keck is the Chief Budget Officer for the California Department of Transportation, in Sacramento, CA. He is in his 15th year working for the Department of Transportation, and has been the Chief Budget Officer since 2009. Steven is responsible for managing the Department's annual budget, as well as cash management policy and revenue forecasting. Steven began his career of Civil Service with the State of California in 1998.

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#### **Will Kempton, Executive Director** **California Transportation Commission**

Mr. Will Kempton serves as the Executive Director to the California Transportation Commission, reporting directly to the eleven-member Commission and responsible for overseeing the Commission's staff and its annual budget of \$3.8 million. As the Commission's principal policy

advisor, Mr. Kempton directs the development and management of the State's multi-modal transportation programs, the allocation of state and federal funds, the initiation and implementation of Commission actions and policies, and the evaluation of proposed legislation with impacts to transportation funding and project delivery.

A transportation innovator and manager, Mr. Kempton, has over 40 years of experience in transportation, public service and government affairs. Mr. Kempton has moved between public and private posts throughout his varied career, which began at the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 1973

In 1985, Mr. Kempton served as Executive Director of the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority, managing its billion-dollar highway construction program, the first of its kind in the state. In 1992, Kempton became a partner in Smith, Kempton & Watts, a Sacramento advocacy firm where he consulted in programs and policies to enhance effectiveness of public and private resources. In 2004, he was recruited to head Caltrans and served as Director from 2004 to 2009. He then served nearly four years as Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). Most recently, he served as Executive Director of Transportation California, an industry-based transportation advocacy group.

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**Steve Heminger, Executive Director  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

Steve Heminger is Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). MTC is the regional transportation planning and finance agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. It administers more than \$2 billion per year in funding for the operation, maintenance and expansion of the Bay Area's surface transportation network.

Since 1998, MTC has served as the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) responsible for administering all toll revenue from the seven state-owned bridges. BATA has a "AA" credit rating and has issued over \$9 billion in toll revenue bonds to finance bridge, highway, and transit construction projects over the next several years. MTC also functions as the region's Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) and operates a fleet of 80 tow trucks and 2,600 roadside call boxes to assist motorists in trouble. In addition, MTC manages the FasTrak® electronic toll collection system, the Clipper® transit fare card program and the popular 511 traveler information telephone number and web site.

Mr. Heminger was appointed by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to serve on the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, which helped chart the future course for the federal transportation program. As Chairman of the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee, Mr. Heminger also oversaw construction of the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge – the largest transportation project in California history. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Mineta Transportation Institute and of the Executive Committee for the Transportation Research Board.

Mr. Heminger received his Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University.

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**Michael T. Turner, Deputy Executive Officer, Government Relations  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

Michael T. Turner is the Government Relations Director for State Affairs at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. In that role, Mr. Turner is responsible for advocacy on all state legislation affecting transportation and transportation funding. He also manages communication with the 39 members of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, the Governor's Office and State agencies. He is a registered lobbyist with the State of California.

On behalf of the agency, Mr. Turner has worked on Metro sponsored legislation related to a variety of transportation issues from infrastructure financing, innovative project delivery, congestion pricing and the legislation authorizing Measure R. Additionally Mr. Turner is active in various statewide transportation related groups and has worked to develop consensus around major transportation issues in the region.

Mr. Turner has Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from USC.

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**Kiana Buss, Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties**

Kiana Buss is a Legislative Representative with the California State Association of Counties. She represents California's 58 counties before the State Legislature, Administration and at the federal level on housing, land use, transportation, climate change, and tribal gaming related issues.

Kiana has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration and her B.A. in Political Science.

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**Jennifer Whiting, Assistant Legislative Director  
League of California Cities**

Jennifer Whiting is the Assistant Legislative Director for the League of California Cities and works primarily on public works, transportation and telecommunications. Jennifer also works on budget and federal issues.

Before joining the League, Jennifer served as Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Noreen Evans, where she gained a wide variety of experience negotiating policy and legislative language with stakeholders to build a consensus with the Governor's office, state agencies and departments, and other outside organizations. She has also worked for former Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi and Governor Gray Davis.

Jennifer grew up in the Sacramento area, and has a bachelor's degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento.

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**Rob Lapsley, President  
California Business Roundtable**

Rob Lapsley was named President of the California Business Roundtable in 2011. As President, Rob leads an organization comprised of senior executive leadership of major California employers representing a combined workforce of over six hundred thousand employees. Their mission is to strengthen California's economy by enhancing competitiveness and ensuring an educated workforce prepared for the next generation of jobs.

During his tenure, CBRT has successfully launched the nonpartisan California Center for Jobs and the Economy which provides objective and comprehensive economic and jobs data at the state, county, region, senate and assembly level. The Center for Jobs mission is to provide state and local policy makers with a definitive source of information pertaining to job creation and economic trends in California.

Prior to this, Rob served as the vice president and state political director for CalChamber. During this time, he also served as executive director of JobsPAC, a broad, employer-based, bipartisan committee for CalChamber that has helped elect over twenty pro-business Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and Assembly.

Previously, Rob served as president of RCL Consultants, a firm specializing in business, government, political and public affairs consulting. He has also served as vice president for Arnel Development, one of the largest private real estate companies in Southern California, where he was responsible for new business projects.

As an appointee of President George W. Bush, Rob served in the U.S. State Department as special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Spain during the Iraq war. In addition to his diplomatic duties, Rob was responsible for working with private sector firms and the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Spanish-American and European Union business arenas on trade and investment strategies. He was a long-time policy and political aide to former Secretary of State Bill Jones, serving as Undersecretary of State from 1995 to 2001 and managed both of Jones's successful campaigns for that constitutional office. Rob also served as a senior appointee in the administration of Governor Pete Wilson and held positions in the California Legislature for over six years.

Rob is a graduate fellow of the Coro Foundation and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He holds a B.S. in biology and political science from Illinois State University.

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**R.J. Cervantes, Director of Legislative Affairs  
California Trucking Association**

RJ Cervantes is the Director of Legislative Affairs for the California Trucking Association. Previous to his time at the Trucking Association, RJ lived and worked in Portland, Oregon where he served in a few as Policy & Constituent Relations Liaison for Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury and as a Government Relations Representative for the Portland Business Alliance. RJ got his start in the policy arena by working for longtime transportation advocate Congressman Earl Blumenauer. A native of Chico, California RJ holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Portland.