

## The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street, Room 106  
Martinez, California 94553

**John Gioia**, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
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**Diane Burgis**, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
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**Federal D. Glover**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

## Contra Costa County



**David Twa**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 335-1900

January 10, 2017

Honorable Jim Beall, Chair  
Senate Transportation and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2209  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Subject: California Traffic Control Device Committee Review of Senate Bill 632 (Cannella)**

Dear Senator Beall:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to inform you of the County's concerns regarding the California Traffic Control Device Committee's (CTCDC) review of Senate Bill 632 (Cannella/2015). SB 632 addresses, among other issues, school area safety by authorizing local jurisdictions to size the school zone to reflect on-the-ground realities. As you are aware, the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee (Senate T & H hereafter) referred the item to the CTCDC for review due to the technical issues addressed in the Bill.

The CTCDC formed a school zone subcommittee to respond to Senate T & H and Contra Costa County was invited to participate in the effort. The work of the subcommittee resulted in the attached draft response to the Senate T&H. County staff believes the CTCDC recommendations, and the process to come up with those recommendations, are flawed. The County went on record with the CTCDC as such on several occasions. The County's input, accompanied by a substantial amount of evidence and data, was not discussed and did not have any effect on the dialog or outcome. That said, we believe the response from the CTCDC is wholly inadequate. A summary of our specific concerns:

#### **School Zone Size Recommendation is in Direct Conflict with the School Zone Subcommittee Stated**

**Objective:** At the outset of the CTCDC's School Zone Subcommittee's work on the school zone issue the group unanimously agreed that 1) the existing distances in the statutes were arbitrary, and 2) whatever recommendations the CTCDC were to make could not be arbitrary but rather evidence-based. The recommended changes in the letter to the Senate remain arbitrary in conflict with the original, rational agreement.

#### **Local Authority Regarding School Zone Establishment is in Direct Conflict of CTCDC Stated**

**Objective:** At the outset, the Committee was in agreement that affording local jurisdictions flexibility to determine the size of the zone was a desirable characteristic of the bill. Despite this, the CTCDC recommendation did not support the flexibility afforded to the local jurisdictions in the bill.

**"When Children Are Present" (WCP) Signage:** Discussions at the CTCDC established that the Committee is well aware there are substantial, fundamental problems with the WCP signage. Yet, in the letter to Senate T&H, no change is recommended in the underlying statutes and no mention is made of the known flaws of the WCP signage.

Senator Jim Beall  
January 10, 2016

In defense of the CTCDC, the issues in SB 632 are complex. Given the ultimate deviation of the CTCDC from their original, admirable response objectives (discussed above), it appears that the Committee did not have the resources to give the bill and underlying issues the appropriate level of attention.

The County respectfully requests that the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee set aside the response from the CTCDC and refer the issue to Caltrans and the Department of Public Health for a comprehensive review with appropriate resources, analysis and outreach. The numerous, fundamental changes in state transportation policy (complete streets, active transportation, safe routes to school, health in all policies, greenhouse gas reduction, smart mobility framework, vision zero/toward zero deaths) and public health data now available, all strongly indicate that the statutes addressed in SB 632 should be reviewed in an appropriately substantive manner.

While the bill is not currently active, it is entirely likely that the concepts in the bill will be re-introduced at a later date. These issues *must* be addressed if we are to make progress on school area safety and increase the walk/bike rates of students traveling to and from school. The County believes that now is the time to progress on these issues.

Sincerely,

Federal D. Glover, Chair  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, District V

C: Honorable Members of the Contra Costa County State Legislative Delegation  
Honorable Members, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee