

## **Mission Viejo Leaders are Working to Relieve Traffic Congestion in Our Community**

As Mission Viejo's city leaders, my fellow Councilmembers and I are focused on putting our community's needs first. Our commitment to protecting and enhancing our city's quality of life starts first with our residents and the issues that most impact your day to day lives. This drive has led my continued investment in working collaboratively with neighboring cities and local agencies to develop a solution to the traffic congestion that has long slowed our daily drives and is a continued source of frustration.

Whether we're driving our kids to school, heading out on the 5 to visit relatives or meeting friends at the lake, spill over traffic congestion from our freeways clogs our streets and slows our progress as a city. And, as we look towards our future, we recognize these issues will only continue to grow.

It's this concern for our present needs and our future growth that has led us to actively pursue and participate in the open and transparent process established by the Transportation Corridor Agencies, or TCA, to engage South Orange County elected leaders in a balanced and mutually beneficial traffic solution that will better our daily commutes for generations to come.

While we in Mission Viejo have our own unique set of needs, ranging from easing mall and medical traffic on Crown Valley to managing incoming commuters from the 73 and maintaining road safety in our non-freeway adjacent neighborhoods, we are also actively working to consider the needs of our neighbors. It's this type of collaborative approach that will help ensure we are able to develop a solution in conjunction with the TCA and other local communities to correctly route the proposed extension of the toll road through South Orange County and bring much needed long-term traffic relief to all our communities.

Throughout this effort, the TCA has worked with South Orange County cities, including Mission Viejo, to lead a public-focused process that puts the needs of our residents, businesses and local environment at the forefront of planning. This has led to an extensive local outreach effort that spanned the length of South Orange County and has allowed us to develop solutions like a North/South alignment of the toll road that will recognize and meet the needs of our region.

While the process has been long and is still unfolding, we remain dedicated to working with our community, the TCA and neighboring cities to address concerns and elevate collaborative solutions. And, after years of work, we are confident that a North/South alignment of the toll road offers the win-win solution our residents and local communities need. It reflects balance and compromise. Something we will all have to do to make a meaningful dent in reducing commutes and gridlock.

The TCA has a proven track record of success in developing solutions that do not require taxpayer funding, offer relief from the environmental strains of traffic in the form of meaningful emissions reductions and substantially decrease the number of cars on our freeways and thoroughfares. The result is more open roads, more sane commute times and an overall better quality of life for our residents and neighbors.

As we continue our commitment to our city by furthering our work with the TCA and neighboring cities, I ask that you stand with us and your community in the push to relieve traffic in our neighborhoods by getting informed about the issue and joining us for key public meetings. Visit the TCA's dedicated webpage at [www.getmovingoc.com](http://www.getmovingoc.com) for information you can share with your friends and family and join us during our City Council meeting on August 22 to lend your voice to the effort.

As the consideration of new alignments evolves, I want to reiterate my personal commitment to keeping our residents informed and engaged in our effort to bring long-term traffic solutions to our neighborhoods and look forward to continuing an open dialogue with you as we further our push for progress.

**Written by Wendy Bucknum  
Mayor, City of Mission Viejo**