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Thank you Mr. Chairman:

For the record, I am Bruce Woodbury, Clark County Commissioner and Chairman of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada. Today I am testifying in support of AB 401, which will expand the capability of the public sector to utilize design/build contracts.

In recent years, local governments have seen tremendous growth in contract values from the original signed agreements. These increases have come from design changes or claims related to design issues. Owners have spent considerable time and cost in arbitrating between designer and contractor. It has become apparent that the risks associated with design could be reduced if one contract could be awarded for both design and construction. A further advantage of such an arrangement is that contractor involvement early in the design process could result in less expensive solutions, particularly where construction methods heavily influenced costs. Schedule advantages could also be achieved by overlapping the design and construction activities. This is particularly advantageous for a large transit project such as the monorail or for a larger highway project such as the Las Vegas Beltway, both of which traditionally involve numerous design and construction contracts. Hence the growth of design build as a project delivery method across the country.

Nevada is behind the curve when we look at how other states are benefiting from the time and cost savings they enjoy due to more flexible state enabling legislation in design build. As we embark on larger and larger transportation contracts, whether they take the form of urban monorails, airports or street and highway infrastructure, being able to use design build will allow us to provide sorely needed infrastructure in a less expensive and expedited fashion.

While RTC has some minor concerns with the bill as drafted, we urge your support for the quick passage of this bill.