

To: Board of Directors

Date: March 11, 2014

From: Kristina Vassallo, Civil Rights Administrator

Reviewed by:

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**SUBJECT:** Support AB 1720 (Bloom) & AB 2445 (Chau)

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### **Background:**

The development of legislative proposals has begun and is being considered for new Legislature. While additional positions may be considered as updates become available, below is a summary of those that County Connection intends to take interest in.

#### AB 1720

In 2011, several transit agencies were found in violation of the State's bus axle weight limit, which is currently set at a gross weight of 20,500 lbs./axle. Debate and discussion have risen since the law on weight limit is outdated and doesn't account for much of the equipment and accessibility features many buses include in present day. In 2013, a temporary exemption was put into place that provided relief to agencies who procured buses through 2014. Beginning January 1, 2015, the 20,500 lbs./axle weight limit would be reinstated.

The California Transit Association (CTA) is the Sponsor of AB 1720 and predicts that transit buses procured in 2015 will nevertheless, exceed the current bus weight limit. In order to provide an in depth study, allow an ample time for response, and to offer a long term solution, AB 1720 proposes to extend the exemption period until January 1, 2016.

#### AB 2445

It is unclear under current law whether or not a community college can enter into an agreement for transportation services by a transit system at a college or district level. AB 2445 seeks amendment to such law by allowing students to vote on a campus by campus basis. Therefore, entrance into a contract (as approved by the students in an electoral vote) will be authorized based upon the campus and not the district in its entirety.

### **MP&L Committee:**

The MP&L Committee has reviewed the proposed state legislature and agrees with the staff recommendation to support AB 1720. Also, the MP&L Committee agrees with staff recommendation to support in concept, and seek amendments to AB 2445.

### **Action Requested:**

Staff and the MP&L Committee respectfully wish Board of Directors to support the following:

- AB 1720
- AB 2445 in concept, and seek amendments which allow Community College parking fees to subsidize transit fares on behalf of their students and faculty.