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| **Broader Design Build Authority Under Consideration in the State Legislature**  Metro's advocacy team in Sacramento is engaged in recent discussions regarding expansion of design build authority in California. A bill that originally proposed authorizing the Orange County Transportation Authority to use the design-build procurement method for its I-405 Improvement project, Assembly Bill 401, has recently been proposed to be amended to create statewide design-build authority. Pursuant to the direction of Senate Pro Tem Steinberg, language is being drafted which, if ultimately included in the bill, will allow regional transportation agencies unlimited design-build authority for local street and road, as well as state highway projects until 2024. Caltrans would be authorized 10 design-build projects for any project on the state highway system also until 2024. Caltrans will remain in charge of construction inspection and safety oversight for all design-build projects on the state highway system, or interfacing with the state highway system. Caltrans may use its own employees or contract out for these services, consistent with proposition 35. Projects using the proposed design-build authority may use low bid or best value and do not need CTC approval. It is expected that amendments will be integrated into AB 401 so the bill may be heard in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee when the Senate re-convenes on August 12, 2013. |
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