How much about transit oriented development is myth versus fact? What obstacles must be overcome for transit oriented development to realize its full potential? How do we build the necessary public will among competing stakeholders to effectively employ transit oriented development in Orange County and Southern California? These and other key questions will be explored by Mr. Kempton in his lecture on this critically important topic.

Transit oriented development has been hailed by many as the strategy that will help California and its metropolitan regions and municipalities improve the environment and curtail climate change. By producing transit friendly options that include a housing and job mix that considers the unique demographic needs of localities, transit oriented development holds much promise for addressing concerns about a type of “smart growth” that is ecologically friendly, economically viable, and socially equitable.

As CEO of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Will Kempton is responsible for planning, financing and coordinating Orange County’s freeway, street and rail development as well as managing bus services, commuter-rail services, paratransit van service for people with disabilities and a host of other transportation programs. Prior to joining OCTA in August of 2009, Kempton served as the director of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As director of Caltrans, Kempton was responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of California’s state transportation system, including more than 50,000 miles of state highways stretching from Mexico to Oregon and from the Pacific Ocean to Nevada and Arizona. Although Kempton was named director of Caltrans in 2004, he began he career in transportation with Caltrans in 1973.