



MTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

DATE: March 21, 1997

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: GISELLE ACEVEDO-FRANCO *GF*

- Today, House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation Chairman, Frank Wolf, sent a letter to Department of Transportation Secretary, Rodney Slater (copy attached), calling for a meeting in D.C. regarding the Metro Rail Red Line Project. As additional information becomes available, we will get it to you immediately.
- The Los Angeles City Council will hold a Joint Meeting of the Budget and Finance, Public Safety and Personnel Committees on Monday, March 24, 1997 to discuss the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer's report regarding the proposed MTA/LAPD/LASD transit police merger. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in L.A. City Council Chamber, Room 340 in City Hall.

For more information regarding these issues, please contact me at 213/922-2297.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 21, 1997

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The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I know the people of Los Angeles need a transit alternative to the city's congested roadways. Here in the Washington area, now, even with the Metrorail system and the region's coordinated bus system, the Washington metropolitan region is the second worst congested area of the country - only behind Los Angeles. However, I am concerned that the mixed messages coming from Los Angeles area officials and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), as well as the significant financing challenges and escalating costs of the Red Line project, continue to chisel away confidence in the MTA's ability to deliver on its commitment to provide transit services to the people of Los Angeles. These mixed messages make appropriations and authorization decisions for the LA Red Line project very difficult.

I think it would be helpful to have congressional representatives and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority board - including the Mayor of the city of Los Angeles - meet in Washington along with representatives of the Department and the Federal Transit Administration to discuss current problems and reach some consensus on the project. I would suggest that the Inspector General, as well as the General Accounting Office be involved to provide all parties with their assessments of the Red Line project. Such a consensus would enable the Department and Congress to move forward with greater confidence in supporting funding requests for Los Angeles County transit systems. I am hopeful that the discussions and any consensus would include financing, cost and construction schedules, and a demonstrated commitment to completion of current projects.

Given the need to resolve outstanding issues prior to consideration of the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill, I would recommend that such a meeting take place as expeditiously as possible, perhaps sometime the week of April 14th.

The Committee looks forward to working with you, the Department, and the leadership of Los Angeles County to resolve these issues so that Congress can support federal appropriations for Los Angeles' transit needs. I believe that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Los Angeles for all parties to sit down and address the problems facing the Red Line project.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf

Chairman

Subcommittee on Transportation
and Related Agencies

cc: Los Angeles County Congressional delegation