



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

**Arthur T. Leahy**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
213.922.6888 Tel  
213.922.7447 Fax  
metro.net

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), I am writing to express our opposition to your 2009-2010 State budget proposal for transportation. Your proposal decimates the State's role in funding public transit leaving local transportation agencies with the sole responsibility of meeting commuter demands as well as state mandates.

Metro provides over a million boardings a day. Metro is proving that we can get commuters out of their cars and into our clean-fueled public transit system. While these efforts have reduced congestion and improved air quality, they have also increased demands on our transportation system. Metro, like other public agencies, is facing major operating funding shortfalls and projected deficits that may affect the level of service we currently provide on our system. Your budget proposal will not only exacerbate our funding challenges but will also lead to job losses.

In addition, we find that your funding priorities do not reflect state policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The State has passed significant legislation, AB 32 and SB 375, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, State budgets have eliminated all funding for public transit. Any rational discussion of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled must include public transit as a component.

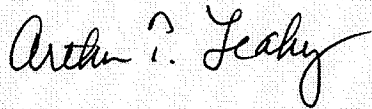
Your proposal to eliminate the State's role in public transit is also economically short-sighted. Metro's role as a major builder and service provider provides thousands of jobs that are helping the recovery of our economy. We provide thousands of jobs for our operators and construction workers. Currently, Metro has major construction projects underway including the Exposition Light Rail Line. The loss of State funding and the State's inability to sell bonds could place this project in jeopardy. This would be detrimental for our system, for workers and the economy.

We understand the Democrats are considering a counter budget proposal that includes an increased excise tax, removal of the sales tax, but retains the diesel tax.

The proposal also includes a local option by providing local authority to raise funds for transit. Although this is an improvement, we are concerned that the counter proposal permanently dismantles a majority of the State's program for public transit and provides an illusory option to raise more local funds.

We would like to partner with you and the Legislative leadership to identify an alternative budget proposal that provides solutions to the State general fund challenges as well as protects State public transit funding program. We look forward to working on a solution that can address the State's immediate budget needs as well as preserves the State's investment in public transit for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur T. Leahy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Arthur T. Leahy  
Chief Executive Officer