

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:


We write to ask the Department of Transportation to include the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector Transit Corridor in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 New Starts Report and make available \$160 million in Federal transit funds to advance these major Los Angeles County transit infrastructure investments. These important projects further the Administration's key policies of generating jobs, improving mobility, reducing vehicle emissions, and creating strong and sustainable community development.

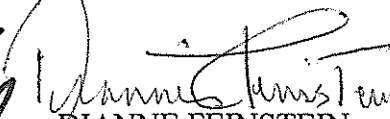
As you know, Los Angeles County has demonstrated its financial commitment to building improved and accessible transit by enacting a local sales tax referendum, known as Measure R, to generate \$40 billion for investment in transportation projects over a 30 year period. We thank you for your strong support for the 30/10 Initiative, which would leverage Measure R revenues to accelerate and complete 30 years of projects in just ten years. Expediting development of the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector projects is a key element of the 30/10 plan.


We are pleased that the Federal Transit Administration has been working diligently with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) to advance planning for these two projects and appreciate the agency's prompt review and approval of the draft environmental documents required under NEPA. LA Metro is on track to begin final design on these projects early in FY 2012, making both projects eligible for inclusion in the FY 2012 New Starts Report. Providing \$160 million for Preliminary Engineering and Final Design through a combination of FY 2011 and FY 2012 funds would bring the projects to the point of construction.

We appreciate all of your dedication and effort in furtherance of public transit in Los Angeles County and throughout the nation. We look forward to working with you to chart a path with clear milestones and benchmarks to keep these two projects on track. The Department's support for New Starts designation and funding for the Westside Subway Extension and Regional Connector projects will generate jobs, increase mobility in one of the nation's most densely populated regions and improve the economic health of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

  
BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator

  
DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

  
HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress