



**Metro**<sup>®</sup>

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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May 24, 2011

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty  
Acting Director  
State of California  
Department of Transportation  
P.O.Box 942873, MS49  
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

### CMIA COST SAVINGS CALL FOR PROJECTS RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Mr. Dougherty:

In a letter dated May 16, 2011 from Cindy McKim of the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to Bimla Rhinehart of the California Transportation Commission (CTC), the Department prioritizes Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) cost savings project applications and recommends funding for selected projects. The Caltrans ranking places the funding requests that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) submitted into a lower tier of eligibility because our applications acknowledged our proposal to use CMIA funds to replace local and federal funds currently programmed to our projects.

We are requesting a transparent evaluation of the funding of all projects in all tiers, based on an objective data source such as the approved Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) page for each CMIA project. We believe that many, if not all, of the projects recommended for funding in the Caltrans letter also have local or other funding programmed that will be replaced by the CMIA cost savings funds and reprogrammed for other uses.

CTC guidelines for the CMIA program state that the CTC may make exceptions to its general policy against such funds displacement if it finds that replacing CMIA funds would further the objectives of the program. Our proposal, subject to our Board's approval, is to reprogram the funds to another high priority project on the state highway system. The project was originally proposed for the CMIA program. Such proposed reprogramming would extend the reach of the program to more CMIA projects and would benefit significantly the objectives of the CMIA program.

In conclusion, we are requesting an objective analysis of the funding plans of all projects listed in the Caltrans letter and that you reconsider your recommendation based on this analysis. We believe this objective analysis, coupled with our projects' benefit to the CMIA program, will allow them to be prioritized among the Tier I

projects. Given our projects' high scores in the initial program of CMIA projects – a value of 9.6 for I-10 HOV Lanes from Puente to Citrus, and a value of 8 for I-5 from Route 134 to Route 170, - they should score higher than any of the projects currently in Tier I of the Caltrans letter.

We believe that an objective evaluation of the projects will result in a decision to fund LACMTA's requests. Should you have any questions about our applications, our funding plans or merits of our projects, please contact Doug Failing at (213) 922-6840.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR T. LEAHY  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Bimla Rhinehart, CTC  
Andre Boutros, CTC  
Rachel Falsetti, Caltrans  
Kurt Scherzinger, Caltrans  
Sam Ekrami, Caltrans District 7  
Alberto Angelini, Caltrans District 7