



August 8, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We were very pleased to receive your news release on July 7, 2011 that the U.S. Department of Transportation was nearing final approval of a \$640.8 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for the Westside Subway Extension. **Your strong leadership on the TIFIA loan is very much appreciated by our entire coalition.**

We are writing, as well, to express our strong support for your continued advocacy in support of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) effort to secure New Starts funds for the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector in the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations process.

As a broad coalition of business, labor, environmental and community groups we see federal investment in transit as a way of accelerating our community's general economic development, putting Los Angeles back to work by creating clean green jobs. Furthermore, by moving people and goods within a more efficient mass transit system we address vital environmental concerns such as removing more automobiles from our roads and decreasing our air polluting emissions.

At this time in Los Angeles County our unemployment rate is about 12%, but for workers in the building trades, unemployment is 40% and higher. Your work to accelerate funding for the construction of a sustainable public transit infrastructure, which has been lacking here, is crucial to our economic recovery and for many families it may well be the difference in whether or not they keep their homes and families intact.

Metro's two New Starts projects constitute an important part of the agency's innovative America Fast Forward initiative. The other key elements of the America Fast Forward plan, as you know, include the expansion of the TIFIA program and the creation of a qualified transportation improvement bond program. Taken together, these three elements, New Starts funding for the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector, an expanded TIFIA program and a zero or low-interest federal bond

program, would permit Metro to build the highway and transit projects outlined in Measure R in 10 years, rather than the planned 30 year construction plan.

The Westside Subway Extension is a nine-mile heavy rail project that would extend the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) subway to a new western terminus in Westwood. The project will be built in one of the nation's densest urban corridors. Once completed, the extension will provide a high-capacity transit connection between the major urban centers of Century City, Westwood and downtown Los Angeles, and dramatically expand new ridership into Metro's entire rail system. In addition, local revenue from Measure R, a self-imposed half cent sales tax for transit and highway improvements in LA County, has already been secured as the required local match to complete the nine-mile project.

The Metro Regional Connector is an approximately two-mile light rail project that will connect the Metro Gold Line in downtown Los Angeles to the Metro Blue and Expo Lines at the 7th and Metro Red Line Station. By completing the two-mile missing link in the system, over 50 miles of light rail service is connected. The project will provide continuous transit service across the region in two different directions: north/south and east/west without the need to transfer. The project will include three new stations in downtown. The Regional Connector project will improve transit service on all regional light rail lines in Los Angeles County and the entire Metro transit system. Light rail ridership will increase system-wide and it will connect major activity centers countywide such as Pasadena to LA Live, Boyle Heights to USC, and Culver City to the LA Civic Center.

We look forward g with you to secure Fiscal Year 2012 New Starts funds for both the Westside Subway Extension and Regional Connector. These projects have considerable regional and national significance and offer a major opportunity to promote mobility and job growth in Southern California.

We appreciate your leadership in bringing jobs and mobility back to Los Angeles County's 10 million residents.

Sincerely,



Denny Zane
Executive Director
Move LA



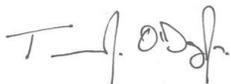
Maria Elena Durazo
Executive-Secretary
Treasurer, Los Angeles
County Federation of
Labor, AFL-CIO



Robbie Hunter
Executive Secretary
Los Angeles/Orange
Counties Building and
Construction Trades
Council



Gary Toebben
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Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce



Terry O'Day
Executive Director
Environment Now



Ron Silverman
Senior Chapter Director
Angeles Chapter
Sierra Club



Tracy Rafter, CEO
Los Angeles Business
Federation



Stuart Waldman
Executive Director
Valley Industry and
Commerce Association
(VICA)

Cc: LA Metro Chair Antonio Villaraigosa, LA Metro Board members, LA Metro CEO Art Leahy, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Feinstein Chief of Staff Chris Thompson, Senator Feinstein California Director Trevor Daley, LA Metro Federal Affairs Director, Raffi Hamparian, LA Metro Director of State Affairs, Michael Turner

Other Supporting Organizations and Businesses

