



Metro

**Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to express the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) interest in participating in the Obama Administration's "We Can't Wait" initiative. We believe a number of highway and transit projects in Los Angeles County may benefit from the relief provided through the executive orders and administrative rulemaking that have already been applied to a number of transportation projects benefiting from the "We Can't Wait" initiative.

Metro plans, funds, delivers and operates a vast transportation network that spans Los Angeles County's 1,433 square mile service area. With over 500 miles of HOV lanes in Los Angeles County, over 80 miles of heavy and light rail, over 1,200 miles of Metro Bikeways and a clean air fleet that is in excess of 2,200 buses, Metro is a leader in enhancing the mobility of the 10 million residents in our service area.

Because Los Angeles County voters in 2008 overwhelmingly supported a half-cent sales tax for transportation projects (Measure R), our agency has an ambitious capital program. This program includes the construction of fifteen highway projects and twelve transit projects, each of which was embedded in Measure R. We believe that several of these projects and others may benefit from the expedited reviews and other forms of relief provided by the "We Can't Wait" initiative.

We look forward to working with the U.S. Department of Transportation and your regional Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration offices to further explore the potential benefit of taking part in the "We Can't Wait" initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (213) 922-6888 with any questions with respect to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer