



Metro

**Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

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August 24, 2012

John D. Porcari
Deputy Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Deputy Secretary Porcari:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), I would like to congratulate you and Secretary LaHood on the launch of the Freight Policy Council at the U.S. Department of Transportation and to encourage our participation as advisory members of this new council. I am confident that the Freight Policy Council, which is an important result of MAP-21, will play a positive role in enhancing freight movement in the 21st Century for not only southern California, but for the nation as a whole.

As a major transportation agency situated at the epicenter of our nation's freight movement network, we understand and appreciate the potential benefits related to the creation of the Freight Policy Council. The twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, both of which are in Los Angeles County, are the first and second largest ports in North America. Taken together, these twin ports are the entry points for 40% of all imports to the United States. Given the role of the ports and the enormous impact that freight movement has on our county's rail and highway network, with respect to job creation, and our environment, we believe it is reasonable to have a member of our Board of Directors serve as an advisor to the Freight Policy Council.

Thank you in advance for considering our request that a representative from our Board of Directors play an advisory role to the council. Please feel free to call me at (213) 922-6888 regarding this correspondence or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer