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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

HENRY A. WAXMAN
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

May 17, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024-2576

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write to share my strong concern about delays plaguing the Interstate 405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project.

According to an April 2013 report from the data firm Inrix, Los Angeles has the worst congestion in the country. The average driver in Los Angeles spent 59 hours sitting in traffic in 2012. The region includes 35 of the 162 most congested roadways in the nation, and the 13-mile stretch of I-405 northbound between the I-105 interchange and the exit to Getty Center Drive, which includes the improvement project, is the most congested stretch of highway in the United States.

The I-405 project will ultimately make significant improvements to I-405, reducing congestion and enhancing the safety of the highway. The project will add a ten mile HOV lane, realign 28 on-ramps and off-ramps and build 18 miles of retaining and sound walls. The project had been scheduled to be completed this spring, but the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Kiewit, the primary contractor for the project, now estimate that it won't be fully completed until as late as the fall of 2014, citing complications with utility line relocations, legal disputes, and the failure of several miles of sound walls. The construction has been a nightmare for the several hundred thousand commuters who pass along I-405 on a daily basis and any delays caused by mismanagement or incompetence are simply unacceptable.

The federal government has made a \$317 million investment in the I-405 project and we have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being misspent or wasted. I urge you to initiate an investigation into the problems with the project and to help ensure that it gets back on track and is completed as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter. I look forward to your response.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress