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PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL AUTHORIZING \$165 MILLION FOR METRO RED LINE AND \$150 MILLION FOR CAPITAL AND OPERATING NEEDS

President Bill Clinton today signed the 1995 Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, which provides \$165 million to continue construction of Segment 3 of the Metro Red Line and more than \$150 million for capital and operating expenses.

The \$165 million for the Metro Red Line is the largest allocation for any transit project in the nation, and represents 26 percent of the total budget for new rail projects. The bill also provides:

- ◆ More than \$150 million in formula funds to be used for mass transportation capital and operating expenses as administered by the Federal Transit Administration. Although funds available for operating assistance were reduced 11 percent nationwide, the total represents an improvement over the 25 percent reduction originally proposed;

- ◆ \$7 million for the continued construction of the Gateway Intermodal Transit Center at Union Station, a vital transportation hub linking five Southern California counties that will eventually serve over 100,000 passengers per day;

- ◆ \$6.5 million for the Advanced Technology Transit Bus, commonly referred to as the "Stealth Bus", actually, a new generation of passenger bus using lightweight materials and clean, fuel-efficient technology.

Noting that funding for new rail projects nationwide decreased by three percent, Senator Dianne Feinstein said "I'm gratified that the Congress recognized the importance of what we're building here in Southern California."

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Representative Julian Dixon, who was instrumental in holding Los Angeles funds intact throughout the appropriations process, said "I am pleased that the Congress has affirmed its support for our region's efforts to build a modern and efficient transportation system."

"The President's action today brings us much closer to realizing the full federal commitment to build Segment 3 of the Metro Red Line, and provides us the funding for operating subsidies and other needed projects like the Gateway Intermodal Transit Center," said Ed Edelman, MTA Chairman and a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Franklin White, MTA's Chief Executive Officer, said "Senators Feinstein and Boxer and our local Congressional delegation really delivered for the people of Los Angeles County. This Authorization will continue to create thousands of local jobs even as we carry on with our efforts to provide clean, efficient service for today and build a world class system for tomorrow."

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