

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins,

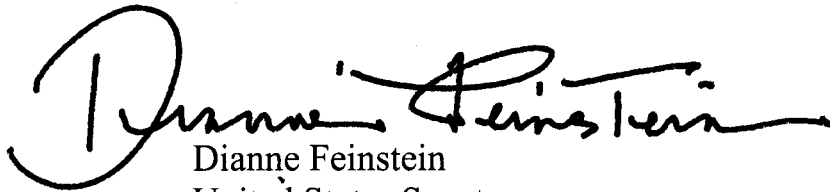
We are writing to express our support for the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request for the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program. This important funding supports mass transit investment across the country, leveraging significant State and local funding, and creating good-paying jobs for thousands of American workers.

Investing in our Nation's public transportation infrastructure is key to America's continued economic revitalization. New Starts funding, as outlined in the President's Budget, will provide new transit options to reduce congestion, improve mobility, cut energy consumption, and create more livable communities. We applaud the President's inclusion of \$3.2 billion for this important program, and urge you to fully fund this request in the FY12 Transportation - Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill.

We are specifically pleased that the Federal Transit Administration included a new funding section for New Starts projects entitled "Other Capital Investment Program Funding Recommendations." This category recognizes four valuable projects - two of which are in our State of California, one in North Carolina and one in Washington State - that are in earlier stages of development but may be eligible for full funding grant agreements before the end of FY12. Both of the California projects are bolstered by strong local financial support, based on a newly adopted half cent sales tax measure that was overwhelmingly adopted by Los Angeles County voters in November of 2008.

As your Subcommittee drafts its FY12 bill, we encourage you to include the full \$3.2 billion for New Starts requested by the President, and specifically to ensure that \$400 million is made available for the Administration's priorities under "Other Capital Investment Program Funding Recommendations." Thank you for your consideration of this request and your diligent work to improve our nation's transportation infrastructure. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, or have your staff contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Boxer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator