



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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Arthur T. Leahy
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August 10, 2012

Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leaders McConnell and Pelosi:

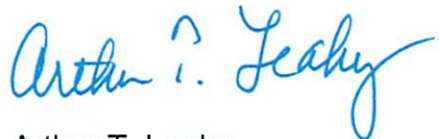
I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to express our agency's concern with respect to cuts in federal transportation funding that may occur through the budget sequestration process under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Metro urges you and your colleagues in Congress and the Obama Administration to ensure that discretionary spending for federal transportation programs and projects is not compromised should the sequestration take effect on January 2, 2013.

While our agency understands that most transportation trust funds are exempted from cuts under the sequestration process, we are concerned that cuts may still occur from discretionary programs funded by annual appropriations bills, like the federal New Starts program. The federal New Starts program, run by the Federal Transit Administration, is the federal government's primary financial resource for supporting locally planned, implemented, and operated transit "guideway" capital investments. Metro is a strong supporter of the New Starts program and views it as an important element in our effort to construct, primarily with local funds, a number of major rail projects in the future. Metro believes any action to compromise the federal New Starts program would be detrimental to our efforts to enhance the mobility of the ten million residents of Los Angeles County.

Under the newly authorized surface transportation program (MAP-21), the New Starts program is funded at a level of \$1.9 billion in Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014. While Metro understands that the Office of Management and Budget would manage the deficit reduction sequester, we believe that Congress should act promptly prior to the conclusion of the second session of 112th Congress to favorably resolve this matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request to safeguard federal transportation funds from being cut due to the sequestration process mandated under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact me directly at (213) 922-6888 with any questions with respect to this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation
Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget