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**USDOT Officials Inquire About Los Angeles Region Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative**

As previously reported in recent issues of the Daily Brief, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is currently in the process of determining the manner in which New York's \$354 million urban partnership grant may be allocated to other congestion reduction applicants. Towards that end, USDOT officials have recently contacted us requesting specific information regarding our application.

In the aftermath of New York's failed congestion pricing project, it is clear that USDOT officials are taking a cautious approach and doing their due diligence to determine which applicants, if any, should be recommended for grant funding. While we have reason to believe that USDOT continues to have significant interest in showcasing the benefits of congestion pricing in Los Angeles and that the agency is getting closer to making final decisions, officials have yet to share any details with us regarding the manner in which funds may be allocated. As soon as we learn more, I will promptly inform the Board.

**Our Art Program Serving as Model for San Francisco's new "Central Subway"**

Creative Services staff met briefly last week with representatives from San Francisco regarding how to successfully integrate artworks into their new "Central Subway" stations and provided them with a copy of our self-guided tour so that they could do more extensive research. The San Francisco team was most impressed with the wide range of artworks in our system and were especially taken by our "Photo Lightbox Program" which is a rotating/changing exhibit featuring the work of photo based artists which also serves to significantly enhance some of the darker areas of our stations. The San Francisco project will allocate 2% of construction costs for

public art (our program allocates 0.5%).

### **34th Congressional District Eastside Chambers Leadership Alliance Meeting**

This afternoon, I participated in the 34th Congressional District Eastside Chambers Leadership Alliance Meeting at the LA Area Chamber of Commerce, where we discussed various issues regarding the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project including our safety and security plans, the economic development opportunities in the area, the plan for a developer's forum, and our marketing plan for the project.

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