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Members of Congress Express Deep Concern About Our Congestion Reduction Plan

Nine Members of Congress from Southern California have authored a letter to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to express their deep concern about the Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative we, in cooperation with Caltrans, submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The letter cites specific concerns that the demonstration program will transfer congestion onto local roads and that it may harm families living below the federal poverty line. The letter also cites the fact that senior members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee are opposed to the congestion pricing program as it is being implemented by the USDOT. The authors of this letter were U.S. Representatives Joe Baca (D-43), David Dreier (R-26), Jane Harman (D-36), Gary Miller (R-42), Grace Napolitano (D-38), Laura Richardson (D-37), Dana Rohrabacher (R-46), Hilda Solis (D-32) and Maxine Waters (D-35). For your review, please find attached a copy of the [congressional letter](#) sent to John Barna, the Executive Director of the CTC.

LA County Board of Supervisors Continues Item on Sub-regional Allocation of Revenues from Sales Tax Increases

Today, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors continued for two weeks, until Tuesday, August 5th, consideration of a resolution for a Countywide initiative that would specify principles for sub-regional allocation of any sales tax increases that we place on the ballot. Supervisor Antonovich introduced the related motion stating that

such increases should follow a sub-regional equity principle, which would ensure "that most of the revenues generated by taxpayers will be reinvested into transportation improvement projects and services within the sub-region of origin."

Media Relations Issues a Press Release to Highlight the Myriad of Regional Activities Accessible via Bus and Rail

Today, Media Relations issued a [press release](#) to persuade people to abandon their cars and use Metro to get to the many attractions in our area. The press release cites how high gas prices are ruining summer vacation plans, which is prompting thousands to take "staycations" (i.e., vacations close to home). The press release also offers lots of suggestions for getting to L.A's top tourist spots via rail and bus and some of those ideas are available as videos for download from iTunes. To find them go to iTunes.com, download and search Metro Los Angeles Destination Guides. Customers are also encouraged to share their staycation ideas by sending their experiences to Interactive@metro.net.

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