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Editor's Note: The California Transportation Commission, meeting in Irvine today, voted to increase LA County's share of transportation bond funding for regional highway projects. In addition to the \$730 million now recommended for the I-405 northbound carpool lane and \$387 million for widening the I-5 between the Orange County line and the I-605, the CTC is recommending funding for the I-10 carpool lane/El Monte Busway project and the I-5 carpool lane from Rt. 134 to Rt. 170.

CTC Votes to Add Funding for LA County Highway Projects

- Metro Board Chair and County Supervisor Gloria Molina issued this statement following the CTC action:

Statement by Metro Chair Gloria Molina on the California Transportation Commission's Latest Revised Proposition 1B Funding Recommendations

"The California Transportation Commission's (CTC) latest revised funding recommendations are fantastic news for all of LA County. Voters can finally feel confident that if they support transportation bonds, that funding will make its way to their end of town.

It is now safe to say that LA County is receiving its fair share of Proposition 1B monies—and that means that the work of the Los Angeles lobbying delegation that pounded the pavement in Sacramento last week has paid off. The bottom line is: Because of our teamwork, the total amount of funding allocated to LA County has more than quadrupled.

"I have always felt that the 405 Freeway carpool lane and the 5 Freeway widening project warranted full funding—but I felt just as strongly that San Gabriel Valley residents deserved their fair share, too. Thankfully, the CTC demonstrated today that they, too, understand this fact.

Now, the commission has assured us that the 605-10 Freeway connector in Baldwin Park—which is undoubtedly the San Gabriel Valley's version of the 405-101 Freeway interchange—is slated to receive \$71 million in Caltrans funding, which is within the CTC's discretion.

Though the state still opted not to fund the 10 Freeway carpool lane, as MTA Chair, I will make it a priority to find local dollars for this critical project. The San Gabriel Valley still has reason to celebrate, though—as do San Fernando Valley residents now that the CTC has pledged close to \$50 million for the 5 Freeway carpool lane from Route 134 to Route 170. All in all, today's decision is a victory for LA County."

