



ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

July 15, 2024

Secretary Toks Omishakin
Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 3508
Sacramento, CA 5814

**RE: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Grant Application for
LA Metro's Southeast Gateway Line Project**

Dear Secretary Omishakin,

The City of Paramount fully endorses the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) application for a \$500 million grant from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for the Southeast Gateway Line Project. This project is Metro's top priority for a TIRCP grant.

The City of Paramount is a proud member of the Gateway Cities, a joint powers authority representing 27 cities and 11 unincorporated areas in southeast Los Angeles County. With over two million residents, our community stands to benefit significantly from this project. Though we make up just over 5% of California's population, over 14% of the state's disadvantaged community census tracts are located in our area, with a higher concentration within the project right of way.

The TIRCP grant award will allow Metro to leverage an estimated \$3 billion New Starts Grant Award from the Federal Transit Administration and implements the project's locally preferred alternative (LPA) that the Metro Board of Directors approved in January 2022. The LPA is a 14.5-mile light rail transit system that includes nine new stations and one new station along Metro's existing C (Green) Line in the Gateway Cities region of Los Angeles County. It will extend from the Pioneer Station in the City of Artesia to the existing Slauson/A (Blue) Line Station in the unincorporated community of Florence-Firestone, allowing a direct light rail connection from Southeast LA County to Downtown Los Angeles for the first time since the Pacific Electric Red Cars closed in the late 1950s.

The Southeast Gateway Line will be a critical link in the region's transit system and its implementation will significantly increase transit ridership, reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, encourage sustainable development for all household incomes and demographics, and benefit members from disadvantaged and low-income communities and households.

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

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The communities near the project right of way will absolutely benefit from the mitigation this project will provide. It will also benefit residents, commuters, and visitors by improving their accessibility to jobs and job-related opportunities, as well as to medical facilities, institutions of higher education, and other activity centers in Los Angeles County. Very few of our working-class residents are able to work from home since they are required to be on location, making this a very attractive transit alternative to Downtown Los Angeles and job centers along the project right of way.

In Paramount, we adopted the North Paramount Specific Plan for the neighborhood between two of the upcoming rail stations, and we are currently preparing an update to the Clearwater East Specific Plan (with State SB 2 assistance), which is immediately adjacent to the planned Paramount/Rosecrans Station. In summary, the City of Paramount is carefully planning for a future that includes the Southeast Gateway Transit Corridor.

We urge the California State Transportation Agency to fully award Metro's TIRCP Grant request.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount strongly supports the application from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for the Southeast Gateway Line Project. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225 if you have any questions. We thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Annette C. Delgadillo
Mayor

Cc: Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District
Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 62nd District
Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Director, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association
Hector De La Torre, Executive Director, Gateway Cities Council of Governments