



VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Vice Mayor

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

PEGGY LEMONS
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS
Councilmember

March 16, 2023

Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PROJECT/PROGRAM FUNDING

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The City of Paramount would like to express its support of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) pursuit of federal funding for the following projects and programs. Metro is building an ambitious transportation future to provide Los Angeles County and Paramount residents equitable access to jobs, enhance safety, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for our climate.

West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project

The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project (WSAB) is a light rail project that will serve commuters in a high travel demand corridor by improving the limited transportation systems available to more than 2 million residents in Southeast Los Angeles County, which includes the City of Paramount. WSAB will directly connect to the Metro C Line (Green), Metro A Line (Blue), and Los Angeles County's broader regional transit network. Once constructed, the WSAB Project will provide reliable, fixed-guideway transit service that will increase mobility and connectivity for historically underserved and transit-dependent communities (consistent with the Justice40 initiative), improve travel times on local and regional transportation networks, and accommodate future employment and population growth. Consistent with Metro Board policy, the WSAB is Metro's #1 priority with respect to securing federal support from the Capital Investment Grant Program.

Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2

The Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 is a light rail extension anticipated to provide commuters in a high travel-demand corridor relief to the limited transportation systems currently available to them. In addition, the project will provide a connection to the regional

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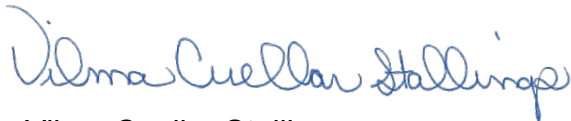
transit network via the Regional Connector, a new Metro rail extension under construction in downtown Los Angeles that will open sometime in 2023. When built, the new line will serve the cities of Commerce, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier, and the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles and West Whittier-Los Nietos. The Locally Preferred Alternative approved by the Metro Board in December of 2022 is approximately 4.6 miles long and includes four stations.

Fareless System Initiative (K-14/Phase 1)

Metro believes a fareless transit system for LA County can reduce millions of vehicle miles traveled and will help the State of California reach its aggressive climate goals by increasing transit ridership, spurring economic recovery, and improving air quality in one of the state's largest concentrations of underserved communities. For these reasons, Metro launched its Fareless System Initiative (FSI Phase 1) in 2021, which provides transit passes at no cost to participating K-14 students. These passes for K-14 students are being used for more than just travel to and from school; they also enable students to have better access to internships, jobs, and other essential trips. To date, over 13 million transit boardings have been achieved through Metro's FSI Phase 1 program.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount supports your favorable consideration of Metro's funding requests. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. On behalf of the City of Paramount, we thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Vilma Cuellar Stallings
Mayor

cc.

Kristine Guerrero, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association



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January 23, 2023

Secretary Toks Omishakin
California State Transportation Agency
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY'S PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR CYCLE 6 OF TIRCP**

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

The City of Paramount would like to express its support of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Program of Projects submitted for Cycle 6 of the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). The Program of Projects is as follows, in priority order:

1. East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Corridor Project
2. Metro L (Gold) Line Foothill Extension Light Rail Transit Project to Montclair
3. West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project (WSAB)

Metro developed the proposed Program of Projects to advance three regionally significant transit projects prioritized in voter-approved sales tax expenditure plan (Measure M). The application reflects stakeholder input, regional consensus, and careful consideration of the guidelines and legislative intent of the TIRCP Cycle 6 opportunity. The total request for \$1.898 billion for these three projects is sized appropriately given the benefits generated by the projects and the capacity available for Southern California and Los Angeles County through AB 180 and SB 198 funds (if secured).

Metro's Program of Projects will maintain and leverage significant amounts of federal and local funds in addition to hundreds of millions of Measure M funding already committed to these projects, create tens of thousands of jobs, and provide mobility and air quality benefits across the State's most populous county, including for disadvantaged, equity-focused communities. By fully funding this application, the State of California will bring in billions in federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration through its Expedited Project Delivery and Capital Investment Grant programs, as well as leverage and maintain billions in locally approved Measure M and San Bernardino County funds.

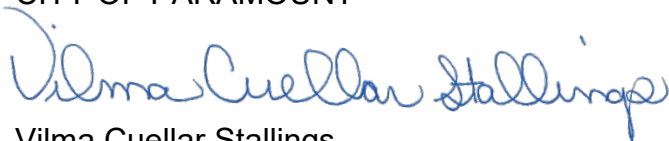
Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

The first two priority projects, the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project and the Metro L (Gold) Line Foothill Extension Light Rail Transit Project to Montclair, are shovel ready and can begin construction within a year, thus bringing immediate benefits to LA County and the State faster than any other project in California. The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project will leverage local and state funding with a Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grant to bring rail transit to a corridor that is home to some of the most disadvantaged communities in the State.

The WSAB project will provide disadvantaged communities like Paramount efficient, safe, and affordable access to public transportation. As members of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and Eco-Rapid Transit, Paramount has supported the construction of a transit line within Southeast Los Angeles County for nearly twenty years. Many of our residents voted for the passage of Measure M with the expectation that we would receive high-quality transit services for commuters in and out of Paramount as quickly as possible.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount supports your favorable consideration of Metro's TIRCP grant request. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. On behalf of the City of Paramount, we thank you for your time and consideration.

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