



ISABEL AGUAYO
Mayor

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Vice Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

September 13, 2023

Tony Tavares
Director
California State Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

**RE: SUPPORT FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO) RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES:
HIGHWAYS TO BOULEVARDS PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Dear Mr. Tavares,

As a member of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG), the City of Paramount supports the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) application for Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program funding. This will lay the groundwork for community-supported planning activities and eventual capital improvement projects along Florence Avenue and Humphreys Avenue within the I-710 corridor communities. We look forward to conferring with Metro and Caltrans to envision the lines of communication with the cities and community groups and prepare for a thorough and inclusive planning process.

Through the COG's I-710 Ad-Hoc Committee and Metro's I-710 Task Force, Paramount and Metro are working together to reconnect the neighborhoods of Southeast Los Angeles and learn about the community vision of safe multi-modal access and a healthier environment. East Los Angeles, and several of the COG's cities like Paramount, have been identified as an underserved community, per the Program Guidelines. Communities like Paramount face higher rates of negative health outcomes due to exposure to diesel exhaust and proximity to industrial areas. This grant will aid Metro in seeking to set the stage for planning and future implementation efforts to connect community members and increase active transportation options.

The project focuses on Southeast Los Angeles communities that have been negatively affected by transportation infrastructure, specifically the I-710. Two crossings have already been identified through previous community engagement. These are the I-710 Florence

Avenue Active Transportation Crossing in the City of Bell Gardens, and the I-710 Humphreys Ave. Bicycle Crossing in East Los Angeles. The bicycle crossing will provide safer connections for students at Humphreys Avenue Elementary School, and safer pedestrian and bicycle routes connecting the Whittier Boulevard commercial corridor and the Metro L (Gold) Line.

For these reasons, Paramount strongly supports Metro's application for the Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards funds and request that the State award funds for the proposal for the two community areas in Southeast Los Angeles. 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

Isabel Aguayo
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isabel" followed by a stylized flourish.

CC. Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 62nd District
Kristine Guerrero, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association