

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 26, 2013

Metro Board of Directors  
c/o Michelle Jackson, Board Secretary  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Chairman Antonovich and Directors,

We strongly support updating and amending the Measure R Expenditure Plan to accelerate projects throughout our region and ensure all projects listed reflect full and updated information, including the total cost and accurate schedule of the Gold Line Foothill Extension.

As members of Los Angeles County's delegation in the House of Representatives, we have consistently supported efforts to bring in more federal dollars to boost our region's economy and improve transportation for millions of residents and visitors. As you know, Congress passed MAP-21 last year, which included a significant expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program. Under the expanded program, in just a few short years, a billion dollars will be available annually in federal loans to local transportation entities to finance infrastructure projects at very low interest rates.

We are pleased that L.A. County is seeking TIFIA loans to leverage the local dollars that will be raised by Measure R, the ½ cent sales tax supported by over two-thirds of L.A. County residents in 2008, over the next thirty years. L.A. County needs an innovative and aggressive strategy to expand our transit networks and reduce congestion on our roadways. This will ensure our region has a 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation system that reflects our status as a top destination for tourism and global commerce.

At the next Metro Board Meeting on June 27, 2013, you will consider amending and updating the Measure R Expenditure Plan for the first time in five years. Much of the information in the current plan is outdated and in some cases inaccurate. In the case of the Gold Line Foothill Extension, the Expenditure Plan fails to list the true estimated total cost of \$1.714 billion to complete the project to Claremont, and the corresponding updated completion year. It is necessary that this information be updated to be consistent with Measure R's enacting legislation and the will of L.A. County voters.


That is why we strongly support the Antonovich Motion that was unanimously approved by the Executive Management Committee to reflect full information for all of the projects in the Expenditure Plan, including the Gold Line Foothill Extension.

If this motion is approved by the Metro Board on Thursday, and such technical changes are implemented by staff immediately while Metro awaits a final response regarding the TIFIA applications, we would proudly support the acceleration and amendments to the Measure R Expenditure Plan.

As the largest county in the nation, it is critical that we work together to grow a truly modern transportation system that works for all of our residents. We are committed to continuing to fight for L.A. County's transportation priorities in Washington D.C., such as TIFIA loans and New Starts funding for the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway Extension. We believe this truly regional approach to expanding our transportation networks will bring the largest benefit to all of our constituents while ensuring our County receives its fair share of federal dollars.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Judy Chu

  
Rep. Grace Napolitano

  
Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod

  
Rep. Adam Schiff

Cc: Eric Garcetti, Mayor-elect, City of Los Angeles  
Art Leahy, Metro CEO  
Habib F. Balian, Metro Gold Line Foolhill Extension Construction Authority CEO