

DISTRICT OFFICE:
8436 WEST THIRD STREET
SUITE 600
LOS ANGELES, CA 90048-4183
(323) 651-1040
(818) 878-7400
(310) 652-3095

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

December 16, 2011

Jacob Lew
White House Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Director Lew:

As the Department of Transportation develops its Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget for transportation spending, I request that it include the two Los Angeles Metro (MTA) New Starts projects, the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway Extension, on the list recommended for Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGAs) in FY 2013. These two New Starts projects are essential to improving mobility and creating jobs in Los Angeles County and are consistent with the Administration's policies of investing in critical infrastructure needs to promote economic development, generating job opportunities, reducing dependence on foreign oil, and of building improved and accessible transportation.

Los Angeles County has evidenced its strong financial commitment to the development of improved transportation by passing a local sales tax referendum, Measure R, which will produce over \$35 billion for investment in transportation projects over a 30-year period. The Westside Subway Extension and Regional Connector projects are two of the first transit projects that will be financed with Measure R funds and federal New Starts funds. These projects were included in the President's FY 2012 budget together with recommended funding for project development. However, given the reduced funding levels in the enacted FY 2012 transportation appropriations bill, these projects were not allocated any current fiscal year funds. In a cooperative effort with the Federal Transit Administration, Los Angeles Metro has continued to move forward with planning and developing these projects by advancing local funds. A Record of Decision under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is expected for each project in early 2012 and final design approval is expected in 2012. Thus, both projects will be ready for FFGAs in FY 2013.

The Westside Subway Extension project will require a federal commitment of \$2.802 billion in New Starts FFGA funding, including \$100 million in FY13 funding. This level of funding represents less than a 45% New Starts funding share, significantly below statutory and recommended benchmarks. For the Regional Connector project, I request that the FY13 budget include a recommendation for a total of up to \$671.3 million in New Starts funding, including \$100 million in FY13 funding. This level assumes a 50% percent New Starts share, which, again, is significantly below the statutory and appropriations benchmarks.

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I appreciate your leadership in the effort to further infrastructure development and public transit for the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. The partnership and financial commitment of the Department of Transportation and this Administration are critical to developing and constructing the Westside Subway Extension and Regional Connector successfully. Thanks to your leadership, these projects will produce significant economic, transportation and community development benefits to the most populous county in the nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress