



**Metro**

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

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April 19, 2012

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
United States House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 12, 2012 in which you shared your strong support for the Westside Subway Extension and outlined your concerns with respect to tunneling and safety issues related to this planned transit project.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is committed to building the Westside Subway Extension in a safe manner. Safety has been and will remain our number one priority when considering all aspects of this and any other project, from its construction to its eventual operation. At the direction of the Metro Board of Directors, during the past year and a half, our agency conducted extensive geotechnical and seismic studies for both the Constellation and Santa Monica Boulevard alignments. These reports, prepared by preeminent geotechnical, seismic and engineering experts, found that the Santa Monica subway route in Century City would pass within and through the confluence of two major earthquake fault zones and is not recommended as a safe location for the Century City Station. Conversely, the Constellation route was found to be outside of the seismic risk areas and is considered to be a safe location for the Century City Station. These findings were confirmed by an Independent Review Panel that reported directly to my office.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement found that tunnels could be safely constructed under Beverly Hills High School and that the concerns expressed about this route could be successfully addressed and mitigated using standard methods and good engineering practice. The School District's extensive list of issues that were addressed included risk of settlement, noise & vibration, gassy ground & oil wells, tunneling through fault zones, use of the school as an emergency evacuation center, impacts on plans to expand and remodel the high school and overall risks to students, faculty and community. In all of the above instances, it was determined that there are reasonable designs and mitigation measures to successfully address these concerns.

Thank you again for your thoughtful correspondence regarding the Westside Subway Extension. Again, as I have shared with you in our conversations in Washington, D.C. and through this correspondence, safety has been and will remain our highest priority when considering all aspects of this project, from its construction to its eventual operation. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (213) 922-6888 with any questions related to this matter or any other transportation issue.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Leahy  
Chief Executive Officer