

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Director Young:

We are writing to request that the U.S. Department of Transportation include a funding recommendation for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Southeast Gateway Line (SGL Project) in the President's upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program and Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program.

Metro's Board of Directors has designated the SGL Project as the agency's top priority for the CIG Program and has dedicated significant local resources, from voter-approved sales tax measures, to build this project. We are pleased that due to close cooperation between Metro and the FTA, the SGL Project has been progressing through the Project Development phase of the CIG Program. This April, the Metro Board approved the 14.5-mile light rail transit alignment from the Slauson A Line Station to Artesia as the project and certified the Final Environmental Impact Report. The FTA subsequently issued a Record of Decision in August 2024, concluding the environmental review process.

Consistent with the Biden/Harris Administration's Justice 40 Initiative and Executive Order 14008, the SGL Project would provide equity and transit accessibility to disadvantaged communities across Southeast Los Angeles County and the Gateway Cities. With a clear understanding that this Project will serve many individuals across a broad number of disadvantaged communities, we are requesting that a funding recommendation of \$100 million for the SGL Project be included in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 budget and CIG Report to facilitate the continued progress and development of the Project. The requested amount would help to cover a portion of the costs associated with continuing design and engineering, utility relocation, pre-construction services, and other activities and tasks to be undertaken during the Engineering phases of the FTA's CIG Program. We should also note that Metro recently submitted the project justification and local financial commitment information that is required for evaluation of the Project by FTA, and Metro anticipates receiving a rating that will allow the Project to be advanced into the Engineering Phase.

We are grateful for the strong and sustained partnership the FTA has maintained with Metro with respect to the SGL Project and the Office of Management and Budget's strong support for the CIG Program. We thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of the request outlined in this correspondence.

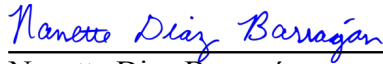
Sincerely,



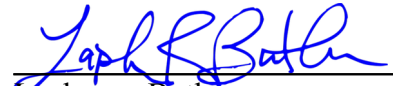
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



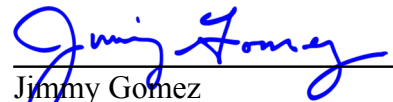
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Eaphonza Butler
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



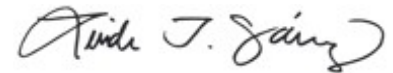
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



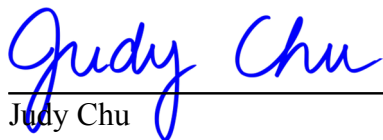
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress