



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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March 16, 2021

The Honorable Lena A. Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capital Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Senator Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee no. 5
Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation
State Capital Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support Letter to California High-Speed Rail Authority's Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan

Dear Chair Gonzalez and Chair Durazo,

I am writing to express Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LA Metro) support for the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan to bring High-Speed Rail to Southern California and for the continued commitment by CHSRA to provide \$500 million in Proposition 1A bookend funding towards LA Metro's Link Union Station (Link US) Project and the Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Project.

LA Metro values and appreciates the partnership with the CHSRA spanning over a decade in making strategic concurrent investments with the Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Project and the Link Union Station Project that enhances the regional rail system today that linked together over time accommodates the future high speed rail system. The CHSRA is investing \$76.7 million (out of the \$500 million) in Proposition 1A (Prop 1A) funds towards the state's highest priority grade crossing that will enhance safety and increase the passenger rail service in the counties of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. The CHSRA is also providing the remaining \$423.3 million of Prop 1A funds towards the first phase the Link US Project (Phase A). The Link US Project will transform the regional rail system in Southern California with run-through capability at Los Angeles Union Station that will provide one-seat rides from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, whereby increasing regional rail services by up to 60 percent.

LA Metro is the public transportation planner, coordinator, designer, builder, and operator serving approximately 10 million people across a 1,431 square mile area of Los Angeles County with a fleet of 2,308 Metro buses, four (4) light rail systems, and two (2) subway systems. With the upcoming national and international events coming to Los Angeles in the next seven (7) years starting with Super Bowl LVI in 2022, Federation Internationale de Football Association's (FIFA) World Cup in 2026, and the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2028 and coupled with a growing population in an already densely populated Southern California region, more critical rail transportation infrastructure investments are needed in Southern California



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today. One example is the High Desert Corridor Rail project that will connect Las Vegas to Palmdale via Brightline West, a private-sector high speed rail provider.

With the potential for new federal investments in high speed rail, LA Metro supports the CHSRA 2020 Draft Business Plan with the addition of more regional rail infrastructure investments in Los Angeles County and Southern California such as Link Union Station Phase B, High Desert Corridor Rail Project and Metrolink's Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion Program that lay the foundation for future high speed rail operation, should additional federal funding be available.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer