



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

November 2, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program
INTERSTATE 5 (I-5) GOLDEN STATE CHOKEPOINT RELIEF PROGRAM**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write you to express my strong support for the grant application being submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, in partnership with the California Department of Transportation and the County of Los Angeles, for FY 17 & FY 18 INFRA funding to advance the *I-5 Golden State Chokepoint Relief Program* (the Program).

The Program offers a multi-layered approach to fixing congestion, addressing safety, and expanding redundancy capacity in the event of major incidents, natural disasters and closures due to inclement weather along a critical 18-mile stretch of Interstate 5 in north Los Angeles County. Hemmed-in by mountains on both sides, this chokepoint along I-5 in the rapidly-growing Santa Clarita Valley becomes the sole major north-south link between the agricultural areas and logistics centers of the Central Valley and the Los Angeles Basin, where the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach support 40% of the nation's containerized freight volumes.

The lack of route choices along this stretch not only heightens the vulnerability of local residents and businesses to major traffic incidents and natural disasters but makes the entire West Coast vulnerable to paralyzing supply chain disruptions along the entirety of I-5, a vital international trade corridor stretching nearly 800 miles from Mexico to Canada.

ANTELOPE VALLEY

42455 10th Street West, Suite 104
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 726-3600

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

615 East Foothill Boulevard, Suite A
San Dimas, CA 91773
(909) 394-2264

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

21943 Plummer Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 993-5170

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

215 N. Marengo Avenue, Suite 120
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 356-5407

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

27441 Tourney Road, Suite 180
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
(661) 287-3657

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I urge the USDOT to award discretionary INFRA funds to the Program, which will construct dedicated truck lanes and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes along the I-5 chokepoint, and will increase capacity and replace critical bridges on The Old Road - the key arterial highway paralleling I-5 that serves as the main bypass during freeway shutdowns.

This targeted program of improvements will add new roadway capacity for commuters and freight traffic where it is most needed, thereby relieving the chokepoint, enhancing safety and security, and supporting continued economic development in the Southern California region and the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

KB:dpo