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October 17, 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:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), I would like to offer this letter of support for the **I-5 Golden State Chokepoint Relief Program**, which is seeking Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant funds. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) are jointly submitting this application.

This program offers a comprehensive approach to fixing congestion, improving safety, and providing more travel choices along a critical 18-mile chokepoint of I-5 in the rapidly-growing Santa Clarita Valley where, hemmed in by mountains on both sides, I-5 becomes the sole major north-south link between the agricultural areas/logistics centers of the Central Valley and the Los Angeles Basin, where the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handle 40% of the nation's containerized freight volumes.

This chokepoint, if left unaddressed, 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. The proposed Program adds new roadway capacity where it is most needed along this chokepoint in the form of truck lanes, HOV lanes, and an arterial widening.

SCAG has identified the project as consistent with the objectives of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hasan Ikhata
Executive Director