



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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October 31, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to express our strong support of the joint application submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation for the ***Interstate 5 (I-5) Golden State Chokepoint Relief Program***. This program seeks \$57.0 million in funding from the FY 2017-18 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) competitive grant program and will leverage that investment by more than a factor of 10 with state, local, and private funding.

The I-5 Golden State Chokepoint Relief 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. This section of I-5, hemmed in by mountains on both sides, is 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 percent of the nation's containerized freight volumes.

This chokepoint, if left unaddressed, makes the West Coast vulnerable to paralyzing supply chain disruptions along the entire 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.

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Thank you for your consideration of this transformative project.

Sincerely,




MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Chairman of the Board
Supervisor, Second District



HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District



SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District



JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

c: Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation