



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

December 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for FASTLANE grant application for *America's Global Freight Gateway - Southern California Rail Program*

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This letter serves to express my strong support of the fiscal year 2017 FASTLANE grant application for *America's Global Freight Gateway - Southern California Rail Program* (Rail Program). This application is being submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority in partnership with the Port of Los Angeles (POLA), Port of Long Beach (POLB), and the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE).

The POLA/POLB complex is the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, receiving more than 40 percent of our country's imports and shipping nearly 30 percent of our exports. By 2035, goods movement through the POLA/POLB complex is projected to more than double, which will further strain our congested regional transportation network.

Currently, about 50 percent of POLA/POLB containerized cargo moves on the ACE Trade Corridor, which is a federally designated corridor of national significance. These rail lines also serve a significant amount of pure domestic cargo, moving to and from Southern California and the rest of the United States. With the number of daily freight trains projected to increase from 81 to 141 by 2025, communities in Los Angeles County will encounter significant problems due to at-grade rail crossings.

The five component projects included in this Rail Program represent a strategy of maximizing the efficient movement of goods via rail, while increasing safety and reducing community impacts with critical grade separations at high priority railroad crossings. This proposed FASTLANE request of \$81.2 million represents only 29 percent of the total project costs, demonstrating our region's strong commitment to improving the economy, mobility, safety, transportation infrastructure, and air quality.

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I thank you for your attention to this worthy request and urge you to award FASTLANE funds for this significant and important joint effort.

Sincerely,



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

KB:dp

cc: Phillip Washington, CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Mark Christoffels, CEO, Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority
Eugene Seroka, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles
Duane Kenagy, Interim CEO, Port of Long Beach