



WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

February 15, 2008

Hasan Ikhata
Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments
818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017-3435

Dear Mr. Ikhata:

The Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) supports SCAG's ongoing efforts in multi-regional planning within the context of the significant challenges of connecting the region through needed transportation projects.

In this regard, we appreciate that full funding for **Exposition Light Rail** to Santa Monica has been included in the plan as a baseline project. The Expo line promises exceptionally high ridership of 61,000 passenger boardings per day, and offers to connect the east and west side of the County along a heavily congested corridor where there are no other opportunities for relief.

The Westside Cities are pleased that the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan includes the first phase of the **Westside Subway Extension** in the strategic section of the plan. We encourage that the strategic section of the plan also reflect the entire 'Subway to the Sea' to Santa Monica.

The robust economic base, diverse cultural and recreational amenities on the Westside warrant these two critical projects. These 2 distinct projects serve separate corridors and will be constructed over different timelines with the Exposition Light Rail project currently under construction while planning efforts for the 'Subway to the Sea' just commenced.

The **I-10/Robertson/National Area Circulation Improvement Project** has also been identified as one of the top priority projects by Westside COG to help relieve congestion. The preliminary planning of this project is listed under the RTIP portion of the RTP, and we urge that the construction of the project be included in the strategic portion of the plan. The project, located near a future Exposition Light Rail Transit station, will relieve

bottlenecks on Interstate 10 and five major boulevards caused by dysfunctional on/off ramp system and street configurations.

The Westside is home both to the second largest employment center in the region with nearly 500,000 jobs and to the worst traffic congestion in the United States. The Westside sub-region is comprised of 3% of Los Angeles County's land area, 6% of the population and has 11% of the County's jobs. Funding for these critical projects is long overdue. These 3 projects will add long awaited mass transit to the Westside and the region. They will be an important part of the overall transportation strategy to enhance mobility, accommodate increasing travel demands, and relieve congestion. We stand ready to join with SCAG to move these much needed projects from the drawing board to reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Briskman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linda J. Briskman
Councilmember, City of Beverly Hills
Chair, Westside Cities Council of Governments

LJB: jhe

cc: WSCCOG Board Vice Chair, Delegates and Alternates
Westside Cities City Managers and COG Executive Staff Committee Members
Jessica Meaney, Assistant Regional Planner, SCAG