



## WESTSIDE CITIES

· BEVERLY HILLS  
· CULVER CITY  
· LOS ANGELES  
· SANTA MONICA  
· WEST HOLLYWOOD

April 18, 2008

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Countywide Planning and Development  
Robert Calix, Transportation Program Manager  
One Gateway Plaza, 99-23-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

ATTN: Mr. Roger Snoble, CEO

Dear Mr. Snoble:

The Westside Cities COG includes the Cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica, West Hollywood as well as portions of the City and County of Los Angeles. This area, commonly referred to as the "Westside" is characterized by one of highest population and employment densities in Los Angeles County, as well as one of the highest proportions of ridership.

To address the reality of choking traffic in the region, the Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) has identified three key transportation projects warranted by the levels of congestion, employment and economic contribution within the region. The Westside COG strongly encourages our Metro leaders to recognize the significant impact and benefits these transportation links will provide businesses and residents throughout the County, and strongly urge you to support these projects in the 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP):

- 1) **Exposition Light Rail to Santa Monica.** Thank you for your ongoing support for the Expo Light Rail project and inclusion of Phase 2 in the constrained portion of the LRTP. Metro's success in securing Phase 1 funding to Culver City is greatly appreciated. Completing the rail line to Santa Monica will provide an important link to key activity and employment centers. It is critical to the overall regional strategy to enhance mobility, accommodate increasing travel demands and relieve traffic along the very congested I-10 corridor. The projected daily ridership of 62,000 boardings will only be realized when the line is complete to Santa Monica.
- 2) **Westside Subway Extension.** The Westside Cities COG is pleased that the Metro Red Line subway extension is included in the LRTP, and requests that this necessary transportation mode be accelerated into the budgeted Constrained Plan at Metro's earliest opportunity. The Long Range Transportation Plan Financial Forecast Update report, dated August 3, 2007, rated the proposed Metro Red Line subway extension to Century City as a highly performing countywide transit project. A subway route through Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles will help mitigate traffic congestion

on local streets, and provide significant transportation improvements to a corridor with high employment and residential densities.

However, we note that although the Metro Board has not received the final Alternatives Alignment Study nor taken action to determine the alignment of this subway extension, the draft LRTP clearly exhibits a Wilshire Boulevard alignment. We would request that the LRTP graphics and text relative to the Westside Subway Extension portray Metro's commitment to the completion of the Alternatives Analysis and alignments that will move forward in the Analysis.

- 3) **I-10/Robertson/National Area Circulation Improvement Project.** I urge you to add this major circulation improvement project to the Strategic Plan of the 2008 LRTP. This project will improve the bottleneck traffic on I-10 and around the future Exposition Light Rail Transit station area by reconfiguring the on/off ramp system and streets to rationalize traffic movements.

The three major transportation projects outlined above will make a significant difference in regional mobility. The robust economic base and diverse cultural and recreational amenities on the Westside warrant the Exposition Light Rail, the Westside Subway Extension, and the I-10 Freeway/ Robertson-National interchange.

Thank you in advance for your support and leadership in prioritizing the Westside projects on the countywide 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Briskman, Chair  
Westside Cities Council of Governments

cc: WSCCOG Governing Board  
Jody Hall Esser, WSCCOG Executive Director