



December 16, 1999

Julian Burke
CEO

The Honorable Maria Contreras-Sweet
Secretary, Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

Re: Shortfall in transit operating funds

Dear Madam Secretary:

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2932

In my December 9 letter to you, I focused on the capital funding needs for transit projects in Los Angeles County. This letter is to share with you the importance of securing additional transit operating dollars to ensure continuing improvement in bus and rail service for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) patrons.

Phone: 213.922.4788
Fax: 213.922.7447

As you know, the MTA currently is endeavoring to comply with a Consent Decree agreement between the authority and the Bus Riders Union. Litigation concerning certain aspects of that Consent Decree is pending in the federal Court of Appeals. Even assuming that that appeal is successful, the MTA is projecting substantial shortfalls in operating funds for existing bus and rail service in Los Angeles County through 2004.

The MTA is not alone in its concern for securing additional operating funds. It is my understanding that transit entities throughout California are supporting the development of some funding mechanism to increase transit-operating resources. As discussions continue between the Governor and the Legislature on ways to improve and enhance funding for transportation projects, I respectfully request that consideration also be given to addressing the need for additional transit operating funds for existing bus and rail service.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

JULIAN BURKE
Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa, Speaker of the California Assembly
Ms. Susan Kennedy, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Cabinet Affairs
Mr. Jose Medina, Director, Caltrans
MTA Board of Directors