



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

March 5, 2004

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MARIA A. GUERRA *MA*
CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2005 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

ISSUE

The Chairman of the House Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Ernest Istook of Oklahoma, has asked that all Members of Congress submit their appropriations requests to his subcommittee by March 19, 2004. The Chairman has requested that all Members limit their requests to their top eight priority projects.

BACKGROUND

The MTA and its federal advocates are working to ensure that our FY 2005 transportation appropriation priorities (see Attachment A) are fully funded in the Chairman's mark (that is the bill brought before the subcommittee members prior to mark-up). The mark-up of this bill may occur anytime after May 2004. To this end, the MTA is working with members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to circulate a Dear Colleague letter that outlines the Delegation's support for the MTA's FY 2005 transportation appropriation priorities. It is our goal to secure the signature of all members of Los Angeles County's Congressional Delegation on this correspondence, which will be addressed to Chairman Istook.

In addition to our tradition of circulating a Dear Colleague letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, this year we have been advised by our federal advocates that each MTA Board member should send a letter to Members of Congress in their area in support of both the MTA's FY 2005 transportation appropriation priorities and a project that the MTA has identified as a priority project. For your consideration, we have attached a sample letter that may be customized by your staff.

In January and February of 2004 MTA Government Relations staff and our federal advocates met with key Congressional aides for the Chairmen and Ranking members of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee in both the House and Senate. At these meetings, the MTA's FY 2005 transportation appropriation priorities were shared with staff members.

NEXT STEPS

MTA Board members are encouraged to write a letter to Members of Congress in their jurisdiction in support of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 appropriations priorities (see Attachment A), which were considered and passed at the January 22, 2004 MTA Board Meeting. Our federal advocates are encouraging this correspondence to also include a project, in or around a Member's District, that have been identified as a high priority or priority reauthorization projects by the MTA Board (See Attachment B). The project may be identified by each Board member from the list included in attachment B. A sample letter has been attached for your consideration (see Attachment C).

The timing of your correspondence is important. Please issue and send a facsimile of your correspondence to Members of Congress the week of March 7, 2004. This will encourage members to sign onto the Dear Colleague letter that outlines the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation's support for our FY 2005 appropriation priorities.

MTA FY2005 Transportation Appropriations Request

January 2004

Issue

- > With Congressional support, MTA will continue to alleviate congestion, enhance air quality, lead the way in planning and building innovative transportation solutions and in the process, maintain Los Angeles County's role as an engine fueling America's economic growth. Congressional support for the MTA's annual appropriations request improves the quality of life for residents of the region by increasing their mobility and encourages goods movement that benefits all Americans.
- \$10 million in Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities to assist the MTA in purchasing buses and constructing bus facilities. The MTA also supports bus funding requests from Municipal Operators in Los Angeles County.
- \$5 million in Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Funding. The requested funding is for the implementation of the Regional Universal Fare System for the MTA.

Background

- > The MTA Board of Directors adopted a Legislative Program in January of 2004 that includes a request for federal transportation funds in FY 2005 appropriations bills. These appropriations priorities will be shared with Members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation and Chairs and Ranking Members of transportation-related Committees in the U.S. Congress.

The MTA will be requesting the following FY 2005 Appropriations:

- \$80 million in Section 5309 New Starts Funding for the Eastside Light Rail Line project from Union Station through East Los Angeles.

Comments and Questions

- > If you have any questions concerning the information included in this Fact Sheet, please do not hesitate to contact Marisa Yeager at (213) 922-3769 or Raffi Hamparian at (213) 922-3769, MTA Government Relations.



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

REGIONAL HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS

(Note: Within Priorities, projects are in alphabetical order)

MTA LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- Alameda Corridor East: Construction Improvements & Traffic Light Synchronization & Upgrade – **Members: Dreier, Miller, Solis, Napolitano and Schiff**
- Los Angeles Eastside Light Rail Transit Project – **Members: Roybal-Allard, Solis and Napolitano**
- Mid-City/Exposition Boulevard Light Rail Project from Downtown Los Angeles to Venice/Robertson – **Members: Watson, Roybal-Allard, Becerra and Waxman**
- MTA Bus and Rail Capital Improvements (vehicles, equipment, facilities, security, rapid bus expansion and other capital needs) – **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Municipal Operators Bus Capital Improvements (vehicles, equipment, facilities, security, rapid bus expansion and other capital needs) – **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Route I-5 HOV Improvements from Route 134 to Route 170 – **Members: Schiff, Berman and Sherman**
- Route I-5: Add 1 Mixed Flow and 1 HOV Lane from Rosemead (I-605) to Orange County Line – **Members: Napolitano, Sanchez and Roybal-Allard**
- Route I-405 HOV Lanes from Route I-10 to Route US 101 - **Members: Waxman and Berman**

HOMELAND SECURITY PROJECTS

- Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Transportation Security Improvements (Green line/People Mover Extension/Remote Flyaway/Baggage Check-In Enhancements) – **Member: Waters**

REGIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS**MTA LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION**

- Crenshaw Transit Corridor Improvement from Wilshire/Crenshaw to Metro Green Line/LAX – **Members: Watson and Waters**
- Los Angeles Countywide Retrofit Soundwall on Freeways with High Occupancy Vehicle Road Lane Improvements – **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Metrolink Capital Improvements and Service Expansion (SCRRRA Project List) - **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Mid-City/Exposition Boulevard Light Rail Project from Venice/Robertson to Santa Monica: **Members: Watson and Waxman**
- Route 57/Route 60 Interchange Reconfiguration Improvements: **Members – Miller and Napolitano**
- Route I-5 Interchange Improvements from Orange County Line to Rosemead Blvd. (Route 19) – **Members: Napolitano**
- Route I-5/Route 170/134 HOV Improvements (partial connector - southbound to northbound) – **Members: Schiff, Berman and Sherman**
- Route I-5/Route I-405 HOV Improvements (partial connector - southbound to northbound) – **Members: Sherman**
- San Fernando Valley North-South Transit Corridor Improvement: **Members: Berman and Sherman**

MTA REGIONAL PARTNERS: TRANSIT

- ASI Paratransit Capital Improvements (vehicles, equipment, facilities, security, and other capital needs) - **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Downtown Los Angeles Red Car Trolley Project – **Member: Roybal-Allard**
- Long Beach Ferryboats – **Member: Rohrabacher**
- Los Angeles Countywide Transportation Demand Management Program, including Rideshare, Innovative Strategies & Alternatives, and New Technology - **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Los Angeles Countywide Goods Movement Access Improvements - **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Los Angeles Countywide Smart Shuttle Bus Purchases and Related Capital Improvements - **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Los Angeles Union Station Ramp Improvements (Metrolink): **Member: Roybal-Allard**
- Metro Red Line Subway extension from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/Fairfax engineering, geological investigation and environmental clearances – **Members: Watson and Waxman**
- Pasadena Gold Line Light Rail Extension from Pasadena to Claremont: **Members: Schiff, Solis and Dreier**

HIGHWAY PROJECTS

- Antelope Valley Freeway (SR-14)/Avenue G Interchange Improvements: **Member: Thomas**
- Arbor Vitae Street Improvements – **Member: Waters**
- Avenue H Overpass Improvements – **Member: Thomas**
- Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement/Ocean Boulevard & Terminal Island Freeway Interchange Construction – **Member: Rohrabacher and Millender-McDonald**
- Lakeland Grade Separation Project in Santa Fe Springs – **Member: Napolitano**
- LAX Roadway Access Improvements – **Member: Waters and Harman**
- Long Beach Airport Access Improvements and Integration – **Member: Millender-McDonald**
- Los Angeles Countywide Community Transit Information and Security Centers – **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Los Angeles Countywide Transportation Enhancements for Bikeways and Pedestrian Space – **Members: Entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation**
- Maine Avenue Redesign, City of Baldwin Park – **Member: Solis**
- Norwalk & Los Nietos Grade Separation Projects in Santa Fe Springs – **Member: Napolitano**
- Pacific Coast Highway Safety & Congestion Mitigation Improvements – **Members: Waxman, Harman and Rohrabacher**
- Passons Road Grade Separation Project in Pico Rivera – **Members: Napolitano**
- Pioneer Blvd Grade Separation Project in Santa Fe Springs - **Members: Napolitano**
- Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach Demonstration Projects – **Member: Rohrabacher**
- Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Project in Santa Fe Springs - **Members: Napolitano**
- Rosecrans Blvd. Corridor West Capacity and Operational Improvements – **Member: Harman**

- Route I-5 Rail Crossing Improvements from Route I-605 to Route I-91 – **Members: Roybal-Allard, Napolitano and Sanchez**
- Route I-5 HOV Lanes from I-710 to I-605 – **Members: Napolitano and Roybal-Allard**
- Route I-10 HOV Lane Extensions (to Pacific Coast Highway) – **Members: Waxman**
- Route 138 Corridor Improvements (specific recommendations forthcoming from Major Corridor Improvement Study), including Safety Improvements – **Member: McKeon**
- Route US 101 HOV Lanes Between I-110 and State Route 23 Corridor Improvements (or other specific recommendation forthcoming from Major Corridor Improvement Study) – **Members: Waxman, Harman, Watson, Becerra, Roybal-Allard, Solis, Schiff, Dreier and Napolitano**
- Route I-405/Crenshaw Blvd. Interchange Upgrade – **Member: Harman**
- Route I-405/Artesia Blvd. Interchange Upgrade – **Member: Harman**
- Route I-405/Western Ave. Interchange Upgrade – **Member: Harman/Millender-McDonald**
- Route I-405 Upgrade at Del Amo Boulevard – **Member: Millender-McDonald**
- Route I-710 Freeway Gap Closure – **Member: Schiff**
- Route I-710 Freeway Rebuild, Rehabilitation & Capacity Enhancement Corridor Project (specific recommendations forthcoming from I-710 Major Corridor Improvement Study) – **Members: Rohrabacher, Millender-McDonald, Sanchez, Roybal-Allard, Napolitano, Solis and Schiff**
- Santa Clarita Cross Valley Connector (Newhall Ranch Road/Golden Valley Road) between Route I-5/SR-126 Interchange and SR-14/Golden Valley Interchange – **Member: McKeon**
- Santa Monica National Recreation Area Improvements – **Member: Waxman**
- State Route 2 South Freeway Terminus Upgrade & Improvements to Glendale Boulevard – **Member: Becerra**
- State Route 14 HOV Improvements from Pearblossom to Avenue L – **Member: McKeon**
- State Route 14/I-5 HOV, Mixed Flow and Truck Lane Improvements (specific recommendations forthcoming from Major Corridor Improvement Study) – **Member: McKeon**
- South Central Exposition Park Intermodal Urban Access Project – **Member: Becerra and Watson**
- Westlake Village Street Improvements & Bike Path Construction – **Member: Waxman**

_____, 2004

Hon.
Member of Congress
Address
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I am writing to encourage your full support for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations requests. As you know, I serve as a member of the MTA Board of Directors.

The following modest appropriations requests were adopted by the MTA Board on January 22, 2004 as part of its Federal Legislative Program. I encourage you to support these appropriations requests by working to have them adopted in the Transportation Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2005. With the understanding that the MTA's service area has a population larger than that of 43 states and covers over 1,400 square miles, your assistance with these appropriations requests is vital in helping the MTA more effectively and efficiently serve our most valuable clients – our passengers.

I also encourage you to sign a Dear Colleague letter in support of the MTA's FY 2005 appropriations request that will be circulated shortly on Capitol Hill. This letter will be sent to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittees for their consideration.

\$80 million in Section 5309 New Starts funding for final design and construction of the Eastside Light Rail project. This innovative light rail project would run from Union Station through East Los Angeles, serving one of the most transit-dependent areas in the City and County of Los Angeles. This light rail project, which is included in the President's FY 2005 budget request, would link together with over 70 miles of Metro Rail Service operated by the MTA.

\$10 million in Bus and Bus Facilities funding to allow the MTA to purchase new alternative fuel buses and construct bus divisions. The MTA currently operates the world's largest fleet of state-of-the-art clean burning buses and is fully committed to expanding its highly successful Metro Rapid Bus program. We also support bus-funding requests from Municipal Operators in Los Angeles County.

\$5 million in Intelligent Transportation System funding. ITS dollars would be utilized to implement the MTA's Regional Universal Fare System (RUFS). The RUFS will facilitate easier passenger transfers from MTA buses and trains to other services offered by municipal operators, paratransit and Metrolink. Instead of purchasing a new fare or carrying change, passengers will be able to use a card imbedded with a computer chip that tracks their individual travel and allow for proper transfers.

I am also fully supportive of securing a federal appropriation for the _____ which the MTA Board has identified as a priority project. Completion of this project will benefit the constituents of the ____ Congressional District and is important to our share goal of improving mobility in Los Angeles County.

I very much appreciate your full consideration and support for the MTA's Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations priorities. Please feel free to contact me or have a member of your staff contact my transportation deputy _____ at _____ with any questions concerning this correspondence.

Sincerely,