

**Metro**

MTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

April 2, 2004

TO: MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: ROGER SNOBLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

URGENT - PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

Federal

The Federal Transit Administration today transmitted the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Eastside Light Rail Line to Congress for a statutory 60-day review period.

The MTA will now act on an FFGA Action Plan prepared last month. The MTA Government Relations Staff and our federal advocates will call relevant staff of Committee Chairs and Ranking members to offer to brief them on the Eastside FFGA and extend an offer to provide answers, whenever needed, on the project. As appropriate, MTA Governmental Relations staff will contact members of the MTA Board and request that they contact Members of the House and Senate to urge full Congressional support for the Eastside FFGA.

An *Eastside FFGA Action Team* has been established and will regularly visit Capitol Hill to brief all staff and Members regarding the Eastside FFGA. The *Eastside FFGA Action Team* is composed of the MTA's Rick Thorpe, MTA Consultant Kent Woodman, MTA Federal Advocates Steve Palmer, Ray Cole, Cliff Madison and MTA Director of Federal Advocacy David Kim. The *Eastside FFGA Action Team* will meet and confer regularly until the FFGA is executed. In addition, an *internal MTA FFGA Response Team*, consisting of MTA Planning and Construction Staff, will provide the *Eastside FFGA Action Team* with timely information in response to Capital Hill inquiries about the project on topics such as project costs, the Best and Final Offer Process, project objectives and benefits, the financial plan and other relevant issues.

MTA Government Relations Staff will also be circulating a letter in support of the Eastside FFGA to members of the Los Angeles County Congressional and State Legislative Delegations.

I want to extend my appreciation to our MTA Board members, the Bush Administration, including Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta and FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn, and to our many friends in the U.S. Congress including Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard, Xavier Becerra, Hilda Solis, David Dreier, Grace Napolitano, Jerry Lewis and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein for their support during the MTA's effort to advance the Eastside FFGA to Congress.

If you have any questions concerning this Federal Brief please contact Government Relations Manager for Federal Affairs Raffi Hamparian at (213) 922-3769 or Director of Federal Advocacy in Washington, DC David Kim at (202) 997-4633.