

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2025

Hon. Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Steve Womack
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee
on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. James E. Clyburn
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee
on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cole and Womack and Ranking Members DeLauro and Clyburn,

We are writing to request that you fund the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program in the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill at levels consistent with those authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L.117-58), including advanced appropriations. This funding would permit the FTA to provide federal resources to two outstanding transit projects being advanced by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), the Vermont Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Project and the Southeast Gateway Line (SGL).

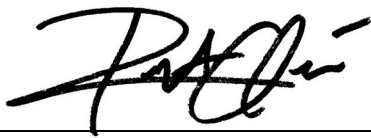
The Vermont BRT Project is currently moving forward in the FTA's CIG Program and was recommended for \$149.9 million in the Fiscal Year 2026 House THUD spending measure. When the Vermont BRT Project is constructed and operational, it will have the highest ridership of any BRT project in the United States. Metro is projecting that this BRT will serve over 66,200 daily riders, dramatically improving transit access along one of LA County's busiest transportation corridors. Over 21% of the riders on this bus route currently are K-12 and community college students. With 33% of the corridor in federally designated Opportunity Zones, the Vermont BRT Project will connect residents to jobs, schools, medical services, and other major transit corridors, including Metro's B, C, D and E rail lines, and dozens of other major bus routes. The Vermont BRT Project is also a crucial mobility component for the upcoming 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The SGL project recently earned (November 12, 2025) a Medium-High rating from the FTA. This project will provide a safe, high-capacity, fast, and dependable alternative for tens of thousands of commuters seeking access to employment centers and other major destinations across LA County. Specifically, the SGL transit project will connect Southeast LA County to downtown Los Angeles and the broader regional transit network, creating significant economic opportunities. The project area is a major employment hub, home to 1.4 million residents and approximately 618,500 jobs. Projections show this will grow to 1.6 million residents and 746,000 jobs by 2042. Population and employment densities in this area are five times higher than the LA County average. The project is expected to create 89,800 jobs and generate about \$5 billion per year in economic activity. Federal funding from the FTA CIG Program will create a ripple effect, bringing new economic development to the communities this well-designed transit line will serve.

Over the last several decades, the residents of Los Angeles County have made a strong financial commitment to developing an improved transportation network by voting for local sales tax referendums. Most recently, in 2016 Los Angeles County voters overwhelmingly backed Measure M, a half-cent sales tax that is providing resources to build a wide range of mobility enhancing projects, including the SGL and Vermont BRT transit projects. When transit projects funded by Measure M are bolstered with FTA CIG funding, it empowers Metro to build transit projects that serve to strengthen our nation's economy and enhance the quality of life for the ten million residents who live and work across Los Angeles County.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



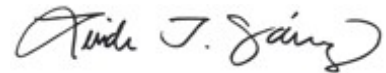
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



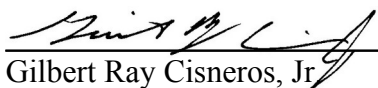
Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



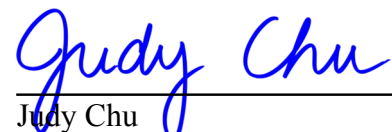
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



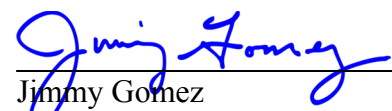
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress