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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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JUN 27 2017

June 22, 2017

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chair California Transportation Commission 1120 N Street, MS 52 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for \$27 million request for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Projects

Dear Mr. Alvarado:

I strongly support the request from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to allocate a total of \$27 million of Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) Funds for the following projects: \$18 million for the next phase of preliminary engineering on the East San Fernando Valley Transit project and \$9 million for construction expenses for the Orange Line Canoga Extension.

The East San Fernando Valley Transit project contemplates a 9.2 mile high capacity transit route starting at the existing Orange Line and extending up Van Nuys Boulevard and then along railroad right of way to the city of San Fernando. In many ways, it is the missing link tying public transit together in this congested region, and it furthers the Governor's goal of lowering carbon emissions. The Orange Line Canoga Extension extended the Metro Orange Line north to connect with the Chatsworth Metrolink Station. The four mile extension runs from the Canoga Orange Line Station at the southern end, and extends north to the Chatsworth Station. The extension was completed in 2012 with local funds due to the uncertainty resulting from TCRP shortfalls.

These projects have been a priority of the people of the East San Fernando Valley for over 20 years. They were listed in the Traffic Congestion Relief Program which was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in 2000, and major additional funding was approved as part of Measure M.

This month's CTC agenda includes the programming and allocation request for a total of \$27 million to both projects. This \$27 million (of \$80 million still owing from the TCRP program) is a key part of the overall funding package and will help the project more quickly complete critical early engineering analysis.

It is time that these TCRP funds, after all these years, be expended as originally intended.

Sincerely,

Adrin Nazarian

Member, 46th Assembly District

