

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 24, 2012

Hon. Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are pleased to convey our strong support for grant applications submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) requesting \$17.6 million in funding from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program and the Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program for the Metro Orange Line Bus Enhancement Pedestrian Connector to the North Hollywood Red Line Station.

It is our understanding that Metro has submitted applications for \$17.6 million for both TIGER and Bus and Bus Facilities funds for the Orange Line Bus Enhancement Pedestrian Connector to the North Hollywood Red Line Station. This pedestrian connector will allow a direct pedestrian connection between the Orange Line (busway) and Red Line (rail) stations in the San Fernando Valley (North Hollywood). At present, the Orange Line handles daily boardings of 27,100, while the Red Line manages over 148,000 daily boardings. In the summer of 2012 the Orange Line is slated to be expanded by four miles, adding many more riders to this popular busway.

The pedestrian connection, which would be made by constructing a tunnel underneath Lankershim Boulevard, would serve thousands of Orange Line and Red Line patrons who cross this location on a daily basis. The project will reduce vehicle traffic delays and will make it safer for patrons to transfer between Metro's existing busway and rail system. The new pedestrian connector will reduce the connection time of patrons connecting from the Orange Line and the Red Line and reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated from traffic delays - all while creating a connection that many of our patrons need. The grant application for this worthwhile project meets the parameters outlined in the Bus and Bus Facility grant program.

We very much appreciate your consideration of grant applications for the Orange Line Bus Enhancement Pedestrian Connector to North Hollywood Red Line Station.

Sincerely,

  
HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
BARBARA BOXER  
U.S. Senator