



Move LA Leadership Board

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(affiliations for identification purposes only)

Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Boxer:

Move LA is very concerned about proposals to extend the current Federal Transportation program 18 months from its expiration date in September, rather than moving forward with the reauthorization process, as apparently suggested by the Obama Administration. Such an extension will leave in place a program which significantly disadvantages proposed new transit systems in the federal New Starts program and significantly disadvantages metropolitan communities.

Importantly, deferring decision adds an important element of uncertainty to local project decision-making. This is likely to delay major transportation investment decisions at a time when Los Angeles County, California and the nation need greater economic certainty, not less.

If delay in the Federal Transportation Reauthorization is necessary, we urge you to:

- Support straight forward reforms that ensure that new federal transit investments are made on a basis equal to that of new highway investments.
- Advance consideration of the proposed National Infrastructure Development Bank submitted as HR 2521 (DeLauro) in the House and expected to be authored by Senator Christopher Dodd in the Senate Banking Committee. This new bank can help accelerate transportation investment decisions especially in communities like Los Angeles County where voters last November approved a new sales tax increase for transportation.

We further urge you to employ your strong influence to ensure that, as the Senate deliberates on its version of the Climate Plan, now that the House of Representatives has approved HR 2454, that:

- Some share of revenue generated by the nation's climate change program be set aside for transit operating costs.

It is clear that reducing household vehicle miles traveled is essential to meeting our greenhouse reduction goals. Facilitating an increasing shift to transit use from personal auto use is one of the primary ways of achieving this goal, yet transit operators all across our nation find it increasingly difficult to maintain service without increased operating revenues. This would be an essential use of revenues generated from the nation's climate program.

Thank you for your time and attention and for your service and leadership.

Sincerely

Denny Zane
Executive Director