



August 15, 2024

Hon. Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District
500 W. Temple St. Room 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project

Dear Supervisor Barger,

As a longtime advocate of public transportation, both in my District and regionally, I am writing to express my strong support for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC) project and to ensure it includes a direct, on-campus station at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a seamless connection to the Metro Purple (D) Line in Westwood Village.

I urge Metro to select an alternative that maximizes equity and accessibility. On a daily basis thousands of people travel from the San Fernando Valley (and beyond, including Senate District 25) to the Westside to access UCLA for education, healthcare, cultural attractions, businesses, and jobs. In fact, UCLA is the county's fourth largest employer and the largest west of downtown Los Angeles. Current public transit options are limited to routes necessitating multiple transfers, which often results in commuters using their personal vehicle if they have access to one. This negatively impacts our quality of life, harms our regional economy, and limits our ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Metro's ridership projections clearly show that the alternatives with the highest use include a direct stop at the UCLA campus and seamless connection to the D line. A UCLA station is projected to be the busiest non-transfer station in Metro's network when it opens. To motivate people to consider using public transit instead of their vehicles, the future STC needs to go directly to the destinations where the overwhelming majority of people are heading while limiting transfers. Public transit is more appealing to commuters when: there is no need to transfer, it is affordable, and it is fast.

Selecting an alternative that includes an on-campus station at UCLA and a seamless connection to the D Line is key to ensuring Metro can achieve all the goals of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. The ridership projections of approximately 120,000 boardings per day for several of the alternatives demonstrate this is a project with the potential to transform our region by providing fast and reliable transportation for Angelenos and visitors. The alternatives including an on-campus station at UCLA will provide what our region desperately needs – effective and accessible public transit in one of the most congested corridors in the nation. If you have any questions, please

do not hesitate to contact my District Director, Talin Mangioglu, at Talin.Mangioglu@sen.ca.gov or 818-409-0400.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony J. Portantino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Hon. Anthony J. Portantino
Senator, 25th District