



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop 99-3-1
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

James Butts
Chair

February 7, 2020

Dear Colleague:

As we are all aware, in November 2016 Los Angeles County voters overwhelmingly approved Measure M, which provides sales tax revenues to relieve congestion in Los Angeles County by supporting LA County Metro and funding a variety of transportation projects. Among the most ambitious of these projects is the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project, which will finally connect the San Fernando Valley and the Westside of Los Angeles with a high-speed, high capacity, fixed guideway system. By continuing down to LAX, the Sepulveda Pass Project will be designed to relieve congestion in a corridor that ranks among the most traffic-choked in the nation. The Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project is an opportunity to build a transit system that will relieve congestion by transporting people from where they live to the destinations they want to reach. Many commuters use the 405 freeway and surrounding roads as they try to drive from their homes to jobs, schools, and medical appointments on the Westside. In addition, LAX is the one of the busiest destinations and origin airports in the United States and ensuring the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project reaches LAX will provide even more needed connectivity. With all the new projects under construction or in development in the City of Inglewood and other cities along the corridor, the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project could tie the all of western Los Angeles County together with great transit options so that people can get to the places they want to reach.

In particular, the UCLA campus is the destination for almost 64,000 commuters every day. In addition to students attending the university, UCLA employs approximately 34,000 people who come from points north, south, east and west of campus. UCLA's world-class medical center with its hospital beds and associated medical offices supports a significant daily population of patients and visitors, and UCLA's arts and athletic events attract thousands of patrons from across the Southland.

UCLA has worked very hard to promote transit to better connect the university with the Southland. Adding an on-campus Metro Rail station would provide quick and direct access to campus for thousands of people daily. It is estimated that an on-campus UCLA station on the Sepulveda Transit Corridor would be used by 25,000 people every workday, significantly reducing the number of drivers and cars on the 405 and neighborhood streets throughout western Los Angeles County. Metro staff have estimated that such an on-campus station would be the busiest non-transfer station in the entire Metro Rail system.

Now, Metro staff has commenced a public-private partnership (P3) procurement method to build the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. This model has the potential to deliver the system years sooner than traditional methods and at a reduced cost. However, based on the documents that

Metro has released, potential bidders may be allowed to develop and propose plans that, in the name of speed of construction and lower costs could, potentially, not include a UCLA station. Such an omission would be a significant missed opportunity and a short-sighted approach to what would otherwise be a successful and lasting transit legacy in LA County. An effective transit system directly connects people to their desired destinations. Bypassing UCLA (even if the campus were to be connected by some sort of shuttle) would significantly compromise the potential to reduce congestion and would let down people of Los Angeles County who voted to fund an effective transit system.

Accordingly, I urge you and Metro staff to consider for further development proposals for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor that include an on-campus UCLA station. While I recognize that it is in Metro's interest to build the entire system as quickly as possible, we should not and cannot miss an opportunity to directly serve one of the most important destinations in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James T. Butts". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

James T. Butts

Mayor of Inglewood and Chairman of the Board, LA County Metro