



**Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension
Construction Authority**

406 E. Huntington Drive, Suite 202
Monrovia, CA 91016-3633

626-471-9050 ph
626-471-9049 fx

www.foothillextension.org

April 21, 2009

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Executive Officer:

Habib F. Balian

Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable David Dreier
U. S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dreier:

As you consider and evaluate important programs for Federal support, I am writing on behalf of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority to seek your assistance with advancing the Metro Gold Line Light Rail Transit Project in the reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The project is critical to the San Gabriel Valley and San Bernardino regions. It will relieve significant congestion along the overcrowded I-210 Freeway; improve the mobility of goods through eastern Los Angeles County and to our ports; support intermodal opportunities, and connect urban and suburban communities.

Phase I of the project, which connects the cities of Los Angeles, South Pasadena, and Pasadena, was completed on time, under budget and fully funded with state and local money at the beginning of construction. This phase opened to the public on July 26, 2003.

The twenty-four mile Foothill Extension Phase II project, which was authorized for final design and construction under New Starts in SAFETEA-LU, is the last phase in the 43-mile Metro Gold Line light rail transit line. Phase II will continue through 11 cities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Valley, including Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale, Azusa, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair and would eventually be extended to the Ontario International Airport. This phase will also serve as a gateway to the Inland Empire, has the backing of the eleven corridor cities, and each have issued City Council resolutions of support to complete the system.

With the approval of Measure R on November 4, 2008, the imposition of a one-half of one percent transaction and use sales tax, for a period of 30 years, Metro's Ordinance 08-01 (Attachment A) Expenditure Plan allocates \$758 million for the Gold Line Foothill Light Rail Transit Extension which is part of the transit capital projects. The funds from the tax will expand new rail and bus systems, as well as many other transit related improvements. **The requested amount is \$10 million for engineering to support the environmental review for advanced conceptual engineering which represents 80% of the \$12.5 million total cost of this activity.**

We appreciate your consideration of the Metro Gold Line's Foothill Extension request and look forward to working closely with you to see this worthwhile project come to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Blickenstaff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Blickenstaff
Chair