



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff,

As Members of Congress representing southern California districts, we write to respectfully request your support for a proposal to reinstate local suballocation authority for federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds in California's largest metropolitan regions.

For over three decades, California successfully operated under a locally driven framework in which the State suballocated STBG and CMAQ funds to county transportation commissions, based on population. This approach, grounded in state law, empowered local agencies to plan and deliver transportation projects tailored to their communities, while ensuring accountability and timely use of federal funds.

In 2021, a federal corrective action prohibited Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) from delegating project selection, effectively centralizing control at the regional level. In the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, which is home to over 18.8 million people across six counties and nearly 200 cities, this shift has disrupted long-range planning, delayed project delivery, and diminished local responsiveness.

We support a narrowly tailored amendment to 23 U.S.C. § 134(j) for inclusion in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation. The amendment would restore suballocation authority in metropolitan planning areas with populations exceeding 10 million, where a state statute already outlines a population-based distribution process. This change would enable county transportation commissions to continue managing and delivering projects efficiently, ensuring accountability and responsiveness to local needs while preserving MPO oversight of the broader transportation improvement program.

As members of California's Senate delegation and leaders in infrastructure and transportation policy, your support for this proposal in the Senate is critical. We hope you will consider

championing this legislative fix and working with House colleagues to build a bicameral coalition that supports more responsive, efficient, and locally accountable transportation funding.

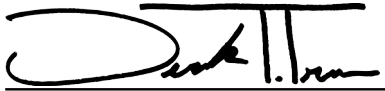
Sincerely,



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress