

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As members of the Orange County California Congressional delegation, we are writing in support of the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA's) request for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to enter into a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Santa Ana to Garden Grove Streetcar project (OC Streetcar Project) as provided for in the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, administered by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). This \$299.34 million project will allow significant economic investment nationwide, generating an estimated 6,500 jobs and considerable contracting opportunities for the private sector.

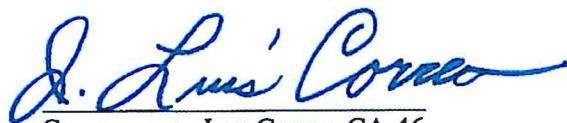
OCTA urgently needs the federal government's FFGA commitment in order to provide timely funding for critical upcoming Project activities and meet a projected opening date of December 2020. Construction Management and Quality Assurance Management contracts have been awarded and are underway. OCTA also has several planned contract awards and advertisements for vehicles, construction and operations and maintenance which must be awarded to meet the delivery target. A delay in the FFGA will slow these activities and create uncertainty to private sector cooperation, adding additional costs to the project. In addition, no committed federal or state funding for the project can be accessed without a FFGA between OCTA and FTA.

While a publically led project, the OC Streetcar Project has numerous private sector project stakeholders that are committed to the goal of improving America's infrastructure as efficiently and as quickly as possible. OCTA has a long-held Board policy to involve private contractors to the maximum extent feasible as part of their construction and operations activities. Private contractor employees make up over 91 percent of the current project workforce to date. All future project construction activities will be undertaken by private construction firms. The OCTA Board has also determined that the project operation and maintenance will be privately contracted.

We urge you to give this request for a FFGA for the OC Streetcar Project your full and fair consideration. This critical addition to America's transit infrastructure network is good for transportation and the economy. We look forward to any further discussion you may want regarding the merits of this project.

Sincerely,


Congressman Ed Royce, CA-39


Congressman Lou Correa, CA-46


Congresswoman Mimi Walters, CA-45


Congressman Alan Lowenthal, CA-47


Congressman Darrell Issa, C-49

Cc: Jane, Williams, FTA
Matthew Welbes, FTA