



July 10, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: **Support for Amendment to Authorize Local Funding Distribution and Selection of Projects from the Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Programs**

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

As the County Transportation Commission (CTC) for each one of the six counties in the largest metropolitan planning area in the nation, we write to express our strong support for a priority surface transportation reauthorization request, as submitted via amendment by Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA) during the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee markup of the BUILD America 250 Act, that would authorize CTCs created by state law to receive federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program funds and select projects for funding from these programs within their regions. Importantly, this request reflects a unified regional position among all six CTCs within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region and has garnered strong bi-partisan support by members of Congress throughout the region. We would encourage reconsideration of this language when the BUILD America 250 Act is taken up on the House Floor.

For three decades, the SCAG region successfully operated under a locally driven framework in which the State Department of Transportation suballocated STBG and CMAQ funds to CTCs following the federal apportionment formula for each program. This approach empowered these 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 the State DOT from suballocating STBG and CMAQ program funds and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) from



delegating project selection to CTCs and other units of local government, effectively centralizing control at the regional level. In the 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. The approval of the proposed amendment will yield substantial efficiency gains by reducing administrative layers and directing more funding to project delivery, in a manner that expedites and ensures the full obligation of the federal funds. It will also ensure accountability and responsiveness to local needs while preserving MPO oversight and approval of the transportation improvement program for the region.

The undersigned County Transportation Commissions of the SCAG region encourage your support for the proposed amendment when the BUILD America 250 Act is taken up by the House Rules Committee and when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Darrell E. Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Orange County Transportation Authority

Martin Erickson
Executive Director
Ventura County Transportation Commission

Carrie Schindler
Executive Director
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

Aaron Hake
Executive Director
Riverside County Transportation Commission



David Aguirre
Executive Director
Imperial County Transportation Commission

- c: The Honorable David Rouzer (NC-7), Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
The Honorable Julia Brownley (CA-26), Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Salud Carbajal (CA-24), Member House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Laura Friedman (CA-30), Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Robert Garcia (CA-42), Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee