January 2, 2018

Hon. Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation INFRA funding grant application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), which represents more than 1,650 businesses in the L.A. region, I am writing to express strong support for the grant applications being submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 INFRA funding. The following brief summary of each of the project applications support increasing mobility through new and improved transportation infrastructure for Los Angeles County’s ten million residents. Combined these projects will leverage over $6.30 in local, state and private funds for every $1 in INFRA funding award.

- **America’s Global Freight Gateway: Southern California Highway**: This application was submitted by Caltrans and is co-sponsored by regional and local transportation agencies, including the Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Orange County Transportation Authority, and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority for a series of key improvements to critical freight bottlenecks on State Routes 57 and 60 and Interstate 10. Total Project cost is $975.5 million. The INFRA Grant funding request is $155 million. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project.

- **Interstate 5 Golden State Chokepoint Relief Program**: The program implements a comprehensive set of improvements to the heavily congested Interstate 5 chokepoint in the geographically constricted Santa Clarita Valley. These improvements include truck lanes, HOV lanes and other operational and safety improvements on Interstate 5, as well as improvements to the major arterial corridor—The Old Road—parallel to Interstate 5 in this area. The total project cost is $603.7 million. The INFRA grant request for this project is $57 million. Metro is the lead agency for this project.

- **Regional ExpressLanes Accelerator: Interstate 105 HOT Lanes**: The addition of ExpressLanes on Interstate 105 will better manage traffic through dynamic pricing of limited roadway capacity, yielding mobility benefits for commuters and freight traffic alike and better linking Los Angeles International Airport to the Southern California region. The total project cost is $348.9 million. The INFRA grant request for this project is $80 million. Metro is the lead agency for this project.

- **America’s Global Freight Gateway: Southern California Rail Project**: This Metro-led application is a regional multimodal bundle of rail-oriented projects that include projects sponsored by BNSF, the Port of Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach, and Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority designed to improve the national movement of freight by rail to and from the nation’s largest seaport complex. The total project cost is $654.8 million. The INFRA grant request for this project is $117 million. Metro is the lead agency for this project.
The efficient and effective movement of goods and people through our nation’s most heavily-congested region is critical to the strength of Southern California’s economy, which helps drive the nation’s economy. The projects identified above are an opportunity to leverage funding at all levels to make key, strategic enhancements to our transportation system which will continue to fuel the growth of our local, regional and national economy. I strongly urge you to award funding for these INFRA grant applications.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Kendal Asuncion at kasuncan@lachamber.com or (213) 580-7518.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO