

June 19, 2018

Mr. Philip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

RE: Support for Northern Extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line

Dear Mr. Washington:


On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 1,650 organizations and 650,000 employees in the region, I am writing to express the Chamber's support to continue forward with the technical studies, including a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for the Northern Extension of the Crenshaw/LAX line to Hollywood. It will connect Metro's existing five transit rail lines in areas that experience severe congestion, and provide more rail to places people want to visit.

This initiative would greatly increase connectivity throughout Los Angeles County and increase access to public transit for thousands of daily riders in one of the most densely populated areas in the region. The extension will play a critical role in the city's tourism sector. It will connect riders to popular destinations previously inaccessible by rail. Notable among these destinations are Hollywood, the Sunset Strip, Universal Studios, the new NFL stadium, and many of the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics venues. The increases in tourism and subsequent retail spending have the potential to boost Measure M funds due to the direct correlation to sales tax revenues. In addition, the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed extension would create almost a quarter of a million new jobs for residents.

By approving Measure M, voters paved a path for the County to invest in a game-changing expansion to our public transportation system. The Crenshaw/LAX extension would utilize Measure M dollars for their maximum benefit by enhancing mobility, benefitting not just the local residents but also the thousands of tourists that visit every year and those expected to come for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics.

Thanks to your leadership and the willingness to explore major project acceleration. The Chamber supports moving forward with technical studies to ensure it is shovel ready by 2020. Should you have any questions, please contact Kendal Asuncion at kasuncion@lachamber.com or (213) 580-7518.

Sincerely,



Gary Toebben
President & CEO