February 25, 2019

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

SUBJECT: FY 2019 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program – State Route (SR)57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Project

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the largest and most influential business organization in Los Angeles County for 131 years, I am writing in strong support of the application submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). The application is for the USDOT’s Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) competitive grant program for the SR 57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Project (Project).

The Project presents the USDOT the opportunity to invest $25 million in INFRA grant funding to implement a $421 million freight highway project of national significance. The INFRA grant will allow this project to start construction nearly two-and-a-half years earlier than currently planned, to the benefit of the national freight highway system. The Chamber is in support of a complementary INFRA grant effort for the America’s Global Freight Gateway: Southern California’s Multimodal Freight Network Project.

The Project will unlock the fifth worst truck bottleneck in the nation and improve traveler safety at the second-highest truck accident “hot spot” in Southern California by eliminating dangerous weaving of trucks and cars at the two-mile segment where two heavily-congested state highways converge. Located near the southeast corner of Los Angeles County, adjacent to Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties, the Project serves as a strategic goods movement connection between critical freight facilities in Los Angeles County—including the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, airports, warehousing clusters, and intermodal facilities—to major distribution hubs in the Inland Empire and consumers, businesses, manufacturers, and farms across the country. Among the four major east-west freight corridors in the greater Los Angeles basin that connect the nation’s busiest seaport complex to the rest of the nation, SR 60 moves the heaviest share of freight—43 percent.

The Project is expected to reduce truck vehicle-hours-traveled (VHT) by 211,000 hours annually and 662 hours daily in the eastbound direction. Its construction of is critical to supporting the safe movement of a growing volume of truck freight and passengers through this confluence. Additionally it will help to the overall economic competitiveness of the goods movement system in Southern California.
For these reasons, we respectfully request USDOT approves this INFRA grant application, we appreciate your consideration and leadership. Please contact Public Policy Manager, Kendal Asuncion, with any questions at kasuncion@lachamber.com or 213-580-7518.

Sincerely,

Jessica Duboff
Vice President of Public Policy