

SAMPLE

VIA FACSIMILE 202.366.7202

August 21, 2003

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 10200
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As a member of the **Los Angeles County Mobility 21 Coalition**, we would like to express our strong support for the completion of a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Eastside Light Rail Project in Los Angeles, California.

The Mobility 21 Coalition is a countywide nonpartisan organization of transportation stakeholders and their representatives. The primary mission of the coalition is to educate and advocate for Los Angeles County's transportation priorities at the federal, state and local levels. The Mobility 21 Coalition includes more than 500 businesses, business associations, transportation providers, non-profits, environmental groups, transportation users, and labor officials.

As recognition of his commitment to Los Angeles and the importance of this project, President Bush's FY 2003 Budget recommended that the Eastside Project receive an FFGA. Further, the President's Budget for FY 2004 included \$55 million for the Project. While we are very pleased with the support the Administration has given the project, we are concerned that the Eastside Project has not yet been granted an FFGA by the Federal Transit Administration. Without an FFGA, the project will face significant delays.

The Eastside Project is a six-mile light rail transit system that runs from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to East Los Angeles, and will serve one of the most transit-dependent populations in the nation. The route would also serve to bring economic vitality to an area where the average annual household income is below \$25,000. According to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, construction of the Eastside Project will generate over 45,000 short-term jobs and over 1,000 long-term jobs. From the planned Little Tokyo/Arts District station to its terminus in East Los Angeles, this dynamic, innovative, and much-anticipated light rail line clearly deserves the federal government's support.

Your leadership in securing, without delay, an FFGA for the Eastside Project would be greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance for your consideration and action on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

[Insert Title] and
Mobility 21 Coalition Member

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator, 202.228.3954 (fax)

