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July 14, 2014

Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Ad Hoc Congestion Reduction Committee
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

RE.: Item 36 – Metro Express Lane Net Toll Reserves Reinvestment Grant Program

Dear Chairman Ridley-Thomas:

This letter is written to comment on Item 36 – Metro Express Lane Net Toll Reserves Reinvestment Grant Program and the Metro staff recommendations to be considered at the Metro Ad Hoc Congestion Reduction Committee meeting on July 16, 2014.

Included in the staff recommendation for allocations from the I-110 ExpressLane Corridor funds is \$875,000 for a Metrolink smart phone ticketing project. We do not believe that there is a sufficient nexus between the Metrolink system and the I-110 Corridor to justify expending any I-110 Net Toll funds on the Metrolink smart phone ticketing application development project. Unlike the I-10 Corridor where two Metrolink lines directly serve the I-10 and SR 60 Corridors, there are no Metrolink Stations in the I-110 corridor and the closest Metrolink stations to the I-110 Express Lane are in Norwalk, Commerce and Montebello, and at LA Union Station, which are all far more than three miles from the I-110 Express Lane. We believe expenditure of the I-110 funding for the Metrolink smart phone ticketing project creates a worrisome precedent, especially since this is the first time that Express Lane net revenues have been allocated using a grant application process.

Rather than recommending that the \$875,000 funds from not funding the Metrolink project be allocated to other candidate grant applicants within the I-110 catchment area, we strongly recommend that the funds should be retained by Metro in the I-110 Net Toll Revenue Reinvestment Account to be made available for future allocation to grant applications that more directly meet the eligibility guidelines for I-110 Express Net Revenues. This would maintain the integrity of the application and evaluation process. We understand that another Net Toll Revenue Call for Applications may be made available as soon as next November.

We also understand that a motion will be brought in to the Committee to remove the Metrolink funding from the I-110 Corridor revenue dispersment and to hold the funds not allocated in the I-110 Corridor revenue account for future projects. We urge your support of that motion.

Thank you for considering the SBCCOG perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacki Bacharach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director
South Bay Cities Council of Governments

cc:

Metro Board Members / Alternates
SBCCOG Board Members / Alternates

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