

**HILDA L. SOLIS**

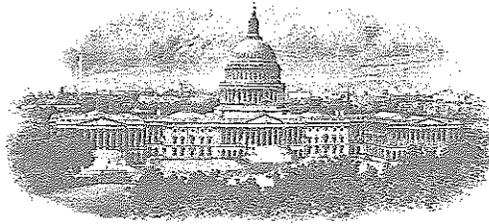
32<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

1414 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5464  
FAX: (202) 225-5467

4401 SANTA ANITA AVENUE  
SUITE 211  
EL MONTE, CA 91731  
(626) 448-1271  
FAX: (626) 448-8062

4716 CESAR CHAVEZ AVENUE  
BUILDING A  
EAST LOS ANGELES, CA 90022  
(323) 307-9904  
FAX: (323) 307-9906

website: [www.house.gov/solis](http://www.house.gov/solis)

December 21, 2007

Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Mr. Snoble:

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the impact of the proposed congestion mitigation plan on low-income communities such as those in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of California. I urge you to consider measures that would ensure that these communities, which are least able to absorb increased costs, do not bear the burden of this plan.

Recent reports indicate that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) congestion plan would turn carpool lanes on the I-10 (El Monte Busway), I-110 (Harbor Freeway Transitway), and the I-210 between the I-605 and I-710 into toll lanes. All drivers would be required to pay a fee to use those lanes.

Low-income consumers already pay a greater share of their overall budget for services while having less elastic budgets. These families are in the bottom 20 percent of the income bracket, usually with an annual income of less than \$16,000. In Los Angeles County, 43 percent of the adults living below the federal poverty line have worked either full- or part-time in the past year. Yet, almost two out of five Los Angeles County residents do not have enough income to pay for their basic needs and housing expenses in Los Angeles County account for between 21 percent and 36 percent of family budgets. Even moderate income families could be challenged if this plan does not include mitigation measures.

Throughout this year we have worked together to ensure Los Angeles County receives its fair share of state funds, and I will continue to work with you to achieve that. However, as we work to secure Los Angeles County its fair share, we must also ensure that low income communities don't pay more than their fair share. I urge you to consider measures as part of this plan to protect low and moderate income families from shouldering these costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

HILDA L. SOLIS  
Member of Congress

HLS:mju