

HILDA L. SOLIS

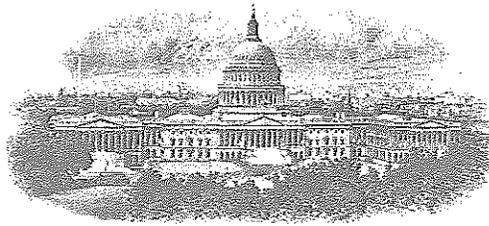
32ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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April 24, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Snoble:

I understand that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority (MTA) will consider today whether to authorize the Chair and CEO to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Transportation to implement the Los Angeles Region Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative. Following up on my letter to you from last December, I am writing to reiterate my serious concern regarding the impact of the proposed congestion mitigation plan on low-income communities such as those in the 32nd 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 black ink that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress