

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

March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The goal of the First Street Transit Gallery Improvement Project is to enhance the amenities and infrastructure at Long Beach Transit's key intermodal hub, known as the First Street Transit Gallery, located in downtown Long Beach and featuring 8 transit shelters along 1st Street, between Pine Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. The First Street Transit Gallery serves as the primary hub for Long Beach Transit's major bus routes, integrating local, regional, and interstate transit connections, including light and heavy rail and regional bus connections.

At present, the customer-facing technology systems at the Transit Gallery, which provide customer amenities such as transit operations, traffic control equipment, and kiosks equipped with graphic and electronic displays for real-time arrival information, are outdated and require modernization. The proposed upgrades will allow passengers at any bus shelter bay in the gallery to easily locate their bus shelter, view the real-time locations of buses, and obtain accurate destination information.

The Transit Gallery underwent its last major renovation in 2011. The current improvement project is focused on upgrading the digital and wayfinding systems and enhancing lighting throughout the area, with the intention of improving the overall customer experience at this busy transit hub.

The Transit Gallery serves as a vital transit center for local, subregional, and regional transportation networks. It supports 26 of the 35 Long Beach Transit bus routes, the LA Metro A Line (Blue) light rail, regional bus routes including Torrance, Metro, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), and Amtrak's Thruway service. As such, it is recognized as a central transit hub for southeastern Los Angeles County. Long Beach Transit provides public transportation to more than 19 million riders annually across southeastern Los Angeles County and northwestern Orange County.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress