

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

February 13, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for your leadership connecting communities, improving safety, and rebuilding our nation's infrastructure. I write to add my voice to those of my Congressional colleagues requesting the U.S. Department of Transportation include a funding recommendation for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project in the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for the Capital Investment Grants Program (CIG) and Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program, with a funding recommendation of \$50 million in the CIG report.

The West Santa Ana Branch is the single most important transportation infrastructure project to my community. When completed, it will bring safe, affordable, and sustainable transit access to Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) and the Gateway Cities, connecting diverse, working-class neighborhoods of color to the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. As a new member of Congress representing many of these cities and neighborhoods, I agree completely with Metro's Board of Directors who designated this project as their top regional New Starts priority.

The West Santa Ana Branch Project is fully aligned with the climate goals laid out in President Biden's Justice 40 Initiative under Executive Order 14008 and would dramatically improve access to transportation in some of our region's most historically underserved communities. I would also encourage the Department to incorporate the Justice 40 goals into the CIG selection process.

I am grateful to the Biden Administration and the Department of Transportation for their commitment to enhancing transportation equity, addressing the impacts of climate change, and investing in the needs of our constituents. This is a top priority for the residents of California's 42<sup>nd</sup> District, and I look forward to working together to make the West Santa Ana Branch a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress