January 10, 2017

Mr. Phillip A. Washington, CEO
Metro
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Measure M Guidelines

Dear Mr. Washington,

Now is an exciting moment for improving transportation options throughout the region. With over 70% support, Los Angeles County voters have passed Measure M to invest in a comprehensive multimodal transportation system. We are eager to work with you to make implementation of Measure M a success and live up to voters’ expectations.

As you know, the development and passage of Measure M was a team effort that cut across sectors and across our county’s diverse population and geography. We all have a stake in its successful implementation and hope to maintain this spirit of collaboration throughout. With that in mind, we have drafted this letter with six key recommendations for the development of Measure M guidelines to set expectations for the implementation of regional programs, subregional programs, and local return.

1. All Measure M programs should have clear performance goals and data collection/reporting provisions consistent with board-adopted performance measures: Mobility, Economy, Accessibility, Safety, Sustainability, and Quality of Life.

2. The Measure M guidelines should clarify the applicability of Metro policies to Measure M funding programs, including First/Last Mile (Motion 14.1, 14.2).

3. All projects funded by Measure M should comply with Metro’s Complete Streets Policy, including completion of checklist, documented exceptions process with Metro approval, and stakeholder input.

4. All projects should be assessed for opportunities for urban greening and green infrastructure. Metro should provide a checklist and guidance.

5. All program guidelines should include a stakeholder engagement plan that provides for early and continuous stakeholder involvement in project development and funding decisions.

6. Metro should accelerate implementation of local plans that are consistent with countywide goals (e.g. Climate Action Plans, Vision Zero, Safe Routes to School) by prioritizing smaller “early action” projects in funding programs.
Los Angeles County voters have entrusted Metro with the most ambitious public works program in the region’s history. Commensurate with its size, Measure M contains the strongest accountability and oversight provisions of any measure. We believe that the above recommendations are consistent with this voter mandate and good planning practices. We commend Metro’s efforts to establish an inclusive and transparent process for the development of Measure M guidelines and look forward to the discussion of these recommendations in that venue.

In partnership,

Nancy McPherson, State Director
AARP California

Claudia Goytia, Government Relations Director
American Heart Association

Wes Reutimann, Project Director
BikeSGV

Seleta Reynolds, General Manager
City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation

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Jessica Meaney, Executive Director
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Tamika Butler, Executive Director
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Emilia Crotty, Policy & Program Manager
Los Angeles Walks

Jess Talamantes, Chair
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Fernando Cazares, California Manager, Climate-Smart Cities

The Trust for Public Land