



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I recently visited Riverside County and had the opportunity to drive on State Route 91 (SR-91), a corridor that you and I have discussed several times. My visit reinforced my view that the project to expand this highway and implement congestion pricing should be a national priority.

I witnessed first-hand the congestion that hamstring the livability for hundreds of thousands of my constituents daily. Of particular note was the bottleneck at the SR-91 and Interstate 15 interchange, where I experienced a significant delay along with many other travelers and interstate trucks at mid-day. This experience demonstrates that SR-91 congestion is not merely a rush-hour problem, but a 24-hour economic concern for California and the western U.S.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is making demonstrable progress on the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project (CIP). Right-of-way is being acquired on the open market, businesses are being relocated to prepare for this important project, and plans are being finalized to provide multi-county bus rapid transit service along this corridor. The vibrant business community I observed along SR-91 includes many major manufacturing companies that stand to benefit from alleviated conditions on SR-91 as they move products to market. I encountered a community prepared for this improvement to take place.

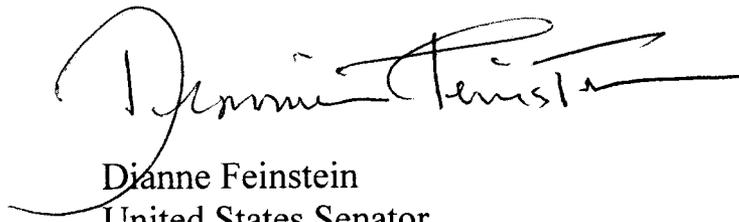
The most significant hurdle remaining for the SR-91 project is the receipt of the full credit subsidy required to leverage a \$444 million TIFIA loan. Thanks to

your leadership, the RCTC received an initial commitment of \$20 million towards the project's subsidy, leaving a balance of approximately \$24 million still needed. RCTC is an applicant under the FY 2012 TIFIA program, and I urge you to use this program to secure the full TIFIA subsidy for SR-91. This final step will allow the project and thousands of jobs to remain on schedule.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to see this project to fruition. If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to visit SR-91 and the surrounding community for yourself. I had a wonderful visit, and it helped me appreciate the importance of investing in nationally significant goods movement corridors.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me in my Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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