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September 17, 2013

Gordon Robinson
Director of Planning
Riverside Transit Agency
1825 Third Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Subject: Letter in Support of the Riverside Transit Agency Project Application for the Riverside County Transportation Commission 2013 Multi-Funding Call for Projects

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for an application from the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) for the Riverside County Transportation Commission 2013 Multi-Funding Call for Projects. They are submitting two grant proposals, one to implement a limited-stop service called RapidLink along University and Magnolia avenues (the Riverside-Corona corridor), and another for the installation of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) to improve fleet management.

The two proposals will help RTA better serve the constituents of my district and Riverside County as a whole. Their first proposal is to help fund limited-stop bus service, which would serve as a precursor to a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along the Riverside-Corona corridor. Limited-stop buses only make stops at high trip generators, which results in reduced running time and more frequent service, and thus reduced travel time for passengers. This project meets the Regional Transportation Plan Sustainability Communities Strategy goals by encouraging increased service frequency, developing interfaces with Metrolink, and enhancing mobility and air quality.

The second proposal is to fund the installation of an Intelligent Transportation System that will provide RTA with the tools for improved fleet management by promoting the efficiency of RTA operations, enhance service planning, and evaluation functions. It will also provide real-time vehicle location and departure information to the public, and help increase ridership within the system. Some of the goals of this project include an increase in transit ridership and a GHG reduction through the reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) from personal vehicle trips.

These projects will expand transit opportunities and increase the public's access to real-time vehicle location and route information, provide more frequent and efficient service, and improve air quality by taking cars off the road. I fully believe that these projects will strengthen our regional economy, provide access to jobs and promote sustainability in western Riverside County. Your full and fair consideration of this request with current laws, rules, regulations and agency policy will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Takano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Takano
Member of Congress