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October 20, 2014

Riverside County Transportation Commission
Attn: Fina Clemente
P.O. Box 12008
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

Dear Ms. Clemente,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for an application from the Independent Living Partnership for renewed funding support for their TRIP program from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC).

The supplemental TRIP Program option is an important part of transportation services provided for the residents of our County. When older adults and people with disabilities do not drive, have no family to help, and are unable to use fixed route or dial-a-ride services due to physical impairments or chronic illnesses, TRIP escorted assistance is one of the only options remaining.

TRIP is a cost efficient and effective program for those who are the most difficult and expensive County residents to provide with transportation services. The TRIP Program year that ended on June 30th was very successful with 1,275 unduplicated riders, who were determined to be unable to access needed health and support services by any other means, and were provided with 154,885 one-way trips and 2,484,056 miles of escorted transportation from friends, neighbors and caregivers. These rides were all free to the riders the funding they are requesting is necessary to enable the TRIP program to continue to provide uninterrupted service.

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".

Mark Takano
Member of Congress