

TESTIMONY OF HON. BRAD SHERMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to highlight critical transportation and infrastructure needs of my district, and for your bipartisan work toward a Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill, which will provide critical investments in our nation's transit needs. As the committee drafts legislative text, I request that you provide strong support for the following priorities.

Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor

I have advocated for additional federal funding to address the Sepulveda Pass bottleneck since I was first elected to Congress. Providing passenger rail service through the Sepulveda Pass in the Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles is LA Metro's most important infrastructure project, and the best way to reduce traffic on the 405 freeway and in Los Angeles County. L.A. Metro has recently completed Metro's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor. While the Committee is not providing project specific requests, it is critical that the Committee's legislative and report language are clear that this project receive the federal resources needed for its successful completion. The Committee included \$10,000,000 that I requested for mass transit through the Sepulveda Pass in the 2021 Surface Transportation Bill, and I urge an even stronger commitment to passenger rail transit funding - and the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Project in particular - in the current bill.

G Line Conversion to Light Rail

The LA Metro G Line is a significant resource for residents in the San Fernando Valley in my district, currently providing bus rapid transit (BRT) which connects residents to job centers, local transit networks, and intercity rail. LA Metro has developed a long-range plan for improvements to the G Line - including added grade separations, improved signaling, and enhanced safety features - and for its future conversion to light rail (LRT).

I urge you to provide robust investment in light rail transit and to ensure that the G Line is eligible for expanded federal investment, including its' ultimate full conversion to light rail.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games) will be the largest and most spectacular sporting event held in American history, with 12 to 15 million ticketholders projected.

Effectively delivering a safe, secure, efficient, and accessible mobility system to support the Games will require the full support of the federal government, including the development of certain necessary improvements to our transportation infrastructure and the provision of essential transportation services.

LA Metro is pursuing an ambitious mobility plan for the Games, while remaining fully committed, first and foremost, to its existing transit riders. This is why it is especially important that LA Metro secure additional federal funds. In particular, the MEGA grant program will need sizable investments in order to carry out the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Prioritizing Veterans on the West LA VA Campus

The Greater Los Angeles VA Medical Center Campus is undertaking a substantial effort to permanently house homeless veterans and their families. In partnership with their principle developer, The Veterans Collective, the VA's effort mirrors other development patterns across the nation. However, as the project is underway on federal land, it has often run into eligibility conflicts that have at times obstructed veterans on campus from receiving federal support through other non-VA programs.

The transportation needs on the West LA VA Campus are significant. They include but are not limited to ADA buses and bus service, transportation to and from the VA hospital and public transportation, safe sidewalks and lighting. I urge the Committee to support projects that address veteran homelessness at the West LA VA Campus and at other VA properties. This would include projects that have multiple federal benefits and are also eligible for funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Los Angeles County is the most populous county in the United States and a critical logistics hub for goods movement. These investments will not only benefit local residents but also improve our national transportation priorities. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input as you craft a bipartisan Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.