

Testimony

Congresswoman Diane E. Watson

In Support of Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Requests

*Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing & Urban Development
Appropriations Committee*

*Wednesday, April 15, 2010
2358-A Rayburn HOB
1:25 P.M.*

Chairman Olva and Ranking Member Latham, thank you for allowing me to testify before your subcommittee today concerning my top two priorities for Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations requests for California's 33rd District of the 15 (fifteen) I have submitted . This Congress will be my last opportunity to support projects in my District that will enhance the quality of transportation. I sincerely hope that today's testimony will encourage the subcommittee to fund these projects at their requested levels.

The first project request I have submitted is \$15,800,000 for the completion of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor's Final Environmental Clearance and Preliminary Engineering, at the behest of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Two-thirds of the voters of Los Angeles County voted for Measure R in November 2008, a one-half cent sales tax for 30 years which specifically approved early construction of the Crenshaw/LAX light rail line. It will include at least six new stations and be the primary passenger rail linking the Green Line to the Expo Line, now under construction.

By connecting Downtown Los Angeles, the Westside, and the South Bay to the busiest airport in the Western Hemisphere, the Crenshaw rail line will greatly facilitate mobility and provide critical economic development opportunities for the historically underserved South Los Angeles community through which the line will travel.

Simultaneously it will relieve traffic congestion and pollution, while becoming the spine of the rail infrastructure that Measure R funds will build to free Los Angeles from auto dependency.

My second project request is \$1,260,000 for the Midtown DASH Community Circulator Bus Expansion Project. DASH buses are neighborhood circulators, providing transportation to essential destinations for primarily low- income transit-dependent riders: disabled persons, students, seniors, and commuters, providing, too, feeder service to regional Metro buses and trains. To non-transit users the project provides clean-air and traffic congestion relief. Midtown DASH buses carry approximately 500,000 riders each year. The project seeks to expand the route through the purchase of three (3) new buses for the community DASH circulator service in Midtown Los Angeles. This is a critical service for local needs, while also feeding into the larger regional transit system comprised of buses, Metro rail and commuter trains.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for the opportunity to testify before your subcommittee and I hope you will give strong consideration to my top two project requests for Fiscal Year 2011. This will be my final session in the House, having served in Congress for ten years. My advocacy for these two appropriation projects, and for no others is, I hope, my fitting legacy to the community and constituents I have represented in public office since 1978. I ask that you will look favorably upon my efforts.

Thank you.

Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress