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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**Tab 139
& 140**

June 27, 2022

Madam Chair Eager & Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Madam Chair Eater & Commissioners:

Subject: Support Letter for Post Fact Time Extension Requests for I-5 HOV Lane and Roadway Preservation Projects
CTC Agenda Tab 139 (ref 2.8c(2); Project #2 & Project #3
CTC Agenda Tab 140 (ref 2.8c(3); Project #1: EA 1218W I-5 HOV/Empire & Burbank (Segment 3) & Project #3: EA 21592U I-5 Carpool Ln- Orange CL to I- 605 (Segment 2)

Thank you for considering the Caltrans District 7's request for Post Fact time extensions to July 2023 to complete construction on two vitally important projects on Interstate 5: I-5 HOV/Empire Ave & Burbank Blvd, Segment 3 and I-5 carpool lane from the Orange County Line to I-605, Segment 2.

The Los Angeles region is the most congested and largest populated region in the nation, accounting for over 25% of the total state population. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is committed to providing efficient mobility through our excellent partnership with the Department.

LACMTA has worked in close collaboration with the CTC and Caltrans for many years to complete this vital link in the region's carpool lane network and to improve operation and safety in this corridor. Interstate 5 is vital to the economy of the region and the state, and LACMTA has worked in close partnership with Caltrans since the early 2000's to plan and fund these essential needed improvements. These projects include adding key segments of carpool lanes that will play a major role in addressing our joint goals to combat climate change. Although the construction is taking longer than any of our agencies originally anticipated, LACMTA has remained committed to the project. it is imperative that they continue to move forward and are completed as soon as possible.

We appreciate the Commission's continued support for these projects. For the I-5 HOV/Empire Ave & Burbank Blvd project, you previously allocated additional supplemental funds of \$54,413,000 in June 2021 to complete the project by July 2023.

We fully support the Caltrans' requests for time extensions to July 2023 to complete these important projects for the people of Southern California.

Sincerely,

James de la Loza
Chief Planning Officer

c: Tony Tavares
Gloria Roberts
Susan Chang