The Honorable James Butts, Chair and Board Members
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Re: Support for the Crenshaw Northern Extension Project EIR

Dear Chair Butts:

The City of Beverly Hills supports the acceleration of the Northern Extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line and encourages Metro to authorize the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) contract by the end of the fiscal year. This project will maximize the benefits of major east-west transit investments Metro and local communities have already made in Central Los Angeles and the Westside by tying together the Metro Expo, Purple, Red, and Green Lines. Functioning as a second regional connector and north-south transit spine, Crenshaw North is projected to serve over 90,000 daily riders—more than any light rail project in the Country.

The City of Beverly Hills will soon be served by the Metro Purple Line. Together with the under construction Crenshaw Line, the Northern Extension will provide key connections from LAX and Inglewood in the south to major destinations in Central Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and Hollywood such as: the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Original Farmers Market, the Grove, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the West Hollywood Rainbow District, and the Hollywood Bowl.

The Northern Extension will benefit all areas of Los Angeles County fulfilling an unmet promise of Measure R to connect the Crenshaw and Expo Lines to the Purple Line beneath Wilshire Boulevard. It will also close a conspicuous transit gap between communities. The Northern Extension will help alleviate congestion, improve transit as a sustainable and efficient alternative to driving, improve access to opportunity for historically underserved communities, and, when the current crisis has abated, promote car-free tourism across the region.

In July 2018, the City of Beverly Hills passed a resolution in support of the acceleration of the Northern Extension of the Crenshaw Line due to the vital transportation connection role this line will play for the Expo, Red Line, and Purple Line.

We recognize that this item is moving forward at a time of great economic uncertainty, but we believe it’s critical for Metro and the region to keep long term planning efforts moving forward. In particular, City of Beverly Hills supports the City of West Hollywood’s leadership in partnering with Metro, the City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County to explore innovative funding and financing strategies as demonstrated by their Funding and Project Delivery Strategic Plan.
The City also supports the foundation for ongoing interagency coordination on the Northern Extension Project established by the Los Angeles City Council with their recent Council Motion. We strongly support Metro proceeding with an Environmental Impact Report to keep the project moving forward as interagency discussions progress.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

c: Mayor and City Council, City of West Hollywood
    Mr. Phillip A. Washington, Chief Executive Officer