

## **Testimony of Congressman Tony Cárdenas of California**

### **The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members Day Hearing**

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

Thank you Chair Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member Sam Graves, and the Committee members for the opportunity to allow me to testify on Member Designated Project funding opportunities in my district.

I proudly serve the Northeast San Fernando Valley communities, including Panorama City, Pacoima, Arleta, North Hollywood, Van Nuys, and Sylmar. Wedged between major freeways like the 405, 5, and 210, many hardworking individuals spend hours in traffic and away from their families to work in the service industry over the hill to downtown Los Angeles. Growing up in the Valley, it was not uncommon to see family members and neighbors wake up before dawn to carpool to their destination, whether it be in healthcare to nurse our youth and the elderly, to build our infrastructure and create new public spaces, to clean homes and watch over our little ones, or to prepare and serve our food in some of the most visited restaurants. These frontline workers, who contribute and sacrifice to keep us healthy, fed, and safe, deserve our support for projects that provide the most significant mobility, accessibility, connectivity, and ease.

One such Project at the tip of California's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project. This vital public transit infrastructure investment will provide improved transit service along the busy Van Nuys Boulevard and San Fernando Road corridors serving the eastern San Fernando Valley. The Project will provide connections to key destinations and more excellent transit users opportunities to connect to the growing transit network in the San Fernando Valley with destinations to downtown Los Angeles.

I also plan to submit and support requests that mitigate traffic congestions, cool down our hot streets, provide greater pedestrian safety by identifying High Injury Network streets with a significant concentration of severe injuries and deaths, and lastly, explore opportunities to erect sound walls in our most distressed communities to improve quality of life by reducing the freeway's impact on the surrounding neighborhoods.

With the tremendous local support for these priorities, I welcome the committee's continued guidance in moving forward these requests, passing it out of the House, and getting it to the President's desk.

Thank you.