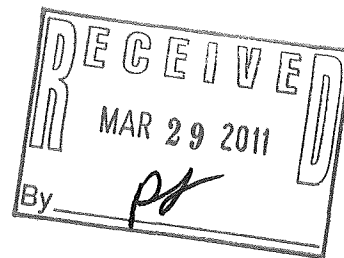
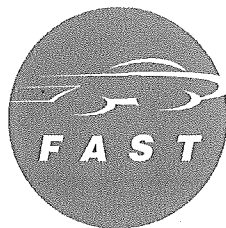


ITEM #1



March 29, 2011

The Honorable Jan Perry  
Councilwoman, Los Angeles City Council District 9  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 420  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Support for Wilshire Grand Redevelopment Project and Mobility Investments**

Dear Councilwoman Perry and Esteemed Colleagues,

I am writing to express FAST's (Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic) continued and unequivocal support for the transit-oriented Wilshire Grand Redevelopment project. FAST is a non-profit coalition of business, labor, education, transit, planning and community organizations that represents over 2 million business owners, employees, faculty members, students, and residents in Los Angeles County. FAST is dedicated to practical, short-term solutions to fixing Los Angeles' traffic – the worst traffic crisis in the entire nation – which costs our economy \$12 billion each year and a total of 515 million hours each year in lost productivity.

Projects like the Wilshire Grand Redevelopment proposal demonstrate how transit-friendly private investments and public financing for transit infrastructure can leverage each other for the mutual benefit of communities and the economy.

Our elected officials in Washington are focused on job creation as the path to the nation's economic recovery, beyond the immediate construction jobs related to federally-funded infrastructure projects. As Metro and Mayor Villaraigosa urge Congress to fund "America Fast Forward," a plan to expand federal loans and financing for transit projects nationally, they can -- and should -- point to the Wilshire Grand Redevelopment project as a timely example of significant private investment and permanent private sector jobs that leverage the federal government's investment in transit.

The Wilshire Grand Redevelopment project site is strategically located across the street from Metro's 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Metro Center Station, with service from the Red Line to Union Station and Hollywood (and the San Fernando Valley via the Orange Line Busway) and Blue Line to Long Beach. Moreover, the 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Metro Center Station is the future site of the Regional Connector, which will link the Gold Line to the Blue and Red Lines, due to be completed in 2019. Proximity to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Metro Center Station and the Regional Connector will mean that thousands of people can travel to and from the Wilshire Grand Redevelopment Project without adding single new car to Los Angeles' roadways. It is anticipated that at least 20% of site employees and visitors will take public transportation.

**Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic**

515 South Flower Street • Sixth Floor • Los Angeles, CA 90071 • 213.233.2542 • Fax 213.613.1903

[www.FASTLA.org](http://www.FASTLA.org)

The Wilshire Grand Redevelopment project incorporates numerous design and program elements to maximize its proximity to Metro's 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Metro Center Station. As gas prices continue to increase, we must support innovative ways to get people to and from key points in the City in addition to car usage. The Wilshire Grand Redevelopment project supports that important goal.

The Wilshire Grand Redevelopment will privately fund a significant number of the practical and effective mobility solutions that FAST's coalition supports in order to fix Los Angeles' traffic:

- ✓ Funding and space to house an on-site Integrated Mobility Hub which will promote car-share, bike-share, shuttles and other transit options linked to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Metro Center station;
- ✓ Visual connectivity and a safe above-ground connection to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Metro Center station for convenient access to public transportation for employees, visitors and tourists;
- ✓ Traffic Demand Management (TDM) programs for employees and residents and visitors including a transportation coordination center, guaranteed ride home program and bicycle/carpool program;
- ✓ Traffic signal upgrades which will improve mobility on our Downtown streets;
- ✓ 10 dedicated parking spaces for car-share programs on-site;
- ✓ Purchase of an electric/hybrid bus to enhance LADOT's DASH's Route E;
- ✓ Funding for the Downtown ExpressPark program—new parking meter technology that prices parking according to demand, with the goals of freeing up parking spaces on the street and encouraging use of other transit modes; and
- ✓ Financial contribution toward Caltrans freeway improvements in Downtown Los Angeles.

The Wilshire Grand Redevelopment Project will invest one billion dollars in a 650-room, four-star hotel, 1.5 million square feet of office space and 100 residential condominiums. It will create over 7,300 construction jobs, 6,200 construction-related jobs and 4,000 permanent, high-quality on-site jobs, and will generate over \$20M in annual tax revenues to the City of Los Angeles, which will help fuel Los Angeles' economic recovery.

Because the Wilshire Grand Redevelopment project provides such a comprehensive array of forward-thinking transportation solutions and investments in Los Angeles' brighter economic future, FAST urges you to approve this project today.

Sincerely,



Hilary Norton  
Executive Director  
FAST (Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic)

Cc: Members of the Los Angeles City Council