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**GREUEL AND LABONGE ASK COUNCIL TO SUPPORT
REVERSAL OF FEDERAL PROHIBITION ON TUNNELING IN
LOS ANGELES**

***Rescinding federal law is first step towards enabling construction of
subway under Wilshire Boulevard to the Westside***

Los Angeles – Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge asked their City Council colleagues today to support Congressman Henry Waxman's legislation that will rescind a federal prohibition against subway tunneling in Los Angeles. Rescinding the federal law would be the first step towards enabling the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to extend the Red Line subway underneath Wilshire Boulevard to the Westside.

The Wilshire corridor is the single densest corridor for both employment and population. It is projected that the Westside expansion could add over 20,000 riders a day.

"We have a traffic crisis in this city that will continue to get worse if we don't have every option available to us to expand public transportation in a dramatic way," said President Pro Tem Wendy Greuel, Chair of the City Council's Transportation Committee. "Expansion of the Red Line would provide a real alternative for Los Angeles commuters and enable them to leave their cars at home."

"When I first urged the MTA to reconsider extending the subway to the Pacific Ocean over a year ago, I knew the groundswell of support for the proposal would be heard loud and clear in Washington," said Councilmember Tom LaBonge, a former member of the MTA board. "Rep. Waxman knows as well as anyone that Los Angeles needs public transit options and extending the Red Line along the Wilshire corridor is definitely a key one."

In 1985 Congressman Waxman stopped further subway construction in Los Angeles through the passage of legislation that prohibited the use of federal money citing safety concerns relative to the potential for methane gas explosions under Wilshire Boulevard.

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Since that time, new technologies have been developed to vent gas, prevent fires, and improve general safety associated with subway construction. And last month, an independent peer review panel organized by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) concluded that it is possible to safely tunnel and operate a subway along the Wilshire Boulevard corridor using current technologies.

If passed, the Greuel-LaBonge motion will formalize the City of Los Angeles' support for Congressman Waxman's House Resolution 4571.

A copy of the motion is attached.

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