ATTACHMENT B

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Transportation Coalition JPA

December 12, 2022

Ms. Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

RE: Metro Antelope Valley Line Capital and Service Improvements Metro January 2023 Board Item

On behalf of the North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA (NCTC) member agencies: Los Angeles County 5th Supervisorial District, the Cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, and Santa Clarita located in North Los Angeles County, I am pleased to **submit this letter strongly supporting and continuing NCTC JPA funding commitments to the Metro Antelope Valley Line (AVL) Capital and Service Improvements next phase of final design.**

The proposed AVL projects will provide higher frequency, more reliable and convenient rail transit to attract more Metrolink ridership on the AVL and provide relief for the severely congested Interstate 5 and State Route 14 corridors.

The NCTC JPA members **have committed $113.8M in Measure M tax-payer Multi-Subregional Program (MSP) funds** toward the AVL service improvements implementation and Metro and Metrolink jointly submitted the AVL Capital and Service Improvements SB1 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and was awarded $107 million for the four capital projects with a total budget of $220.85M.

On **April 17, 2023**, as part of the NCTC JPA annual MSP funding update, the NCTC JPA Board will be expected to **program a total of $36.98M to fully fund the final design phase** of the AVL capital projects. The NCTC JPA Board and Members will reaffirm the **AVL improvement projects as their top transit priority** for the North Los Angeles County subregion.

The combined projects will implement four strategic capital infrastructure improvements along the AVL that will unlock Metrolink's ability to run faster and more frequent service along the 76-mile alignment between the City of Lancaster in North Los Angeles County and Union Station in Downtown Los Angeles, serving

rural, suburban, and urban communities including the Cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, Sylmar, San Fernando, Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles including unincorporated communities such as Acton and Agua Dulce.

Many of these areas offer important concentrations of workforce labor and affordable housing and include disadvantaged communities with higher-than-average transit dependency. The projects will improve service to major employment centers and other regional destinations, including Hollywood Burbank Airport, while accommodating the population and employment growth that is forecasted.

The AVL is the only Metrolink route that operates entirely within LA County, and it is the only high-capacity transit corridor that connects the cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, Unincorporated LA County 5th District, Santa Clarita, Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles. The Metrolink corridor runs parallel to the 5 and 14 Freeways, providing critical congestion relief seeking to lower vehicle miles traveled. Due to the mountainous terrain of the northern portion of the AVL, the average speed for this line is approximately 40mph with passenger rail travel time of approximately two hours between Lancaster and LA Union Station (LAUS).

In many ways, the AVL is a model for the current regional rail system, and it will play a critical role in expanding regional mobility, as outlined in the State Rail Plan and Metrolink's SCORE program.

In closing, on behalf of the North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA members, I am pleased to **submit this letter strongly supporting the Metro Antelope Valley Line Capital and Service Improvements next phase of final design and reaffirm NCTC JPA commitment to program a total of $36.98M at the April 17, 2023, NCTC JPA Board meeting.**

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director

CC: Jim de La Loza, Metro Chief Planning Officer
Jay Fuhrman, Metro Manager, Transportation Planning