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***ROSENDAHL STATEMENT ON APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE AGAINST AB 889***

*Councilmember Bill Rosendahl issued the following statement on the recent California Assembly Appropriations Committee vote against AB 889, a bill by Assemblymember Ted Lieu and Senator Jenny Oropeza that would establish a new public agency to oversee the design and construction of the Green Line extension:*

“I am very disappointed that the Appropriations Committee voted against this much-needed rail extension. The Westside is paralyzed by constant traffic gridlock -- this extension is a common sense approach, a ‘no-brainer’ to relieving traffic congestion in our neighborhoods and communities.”

“Coastal communities are besieged by traffic congestion because there is no north-south mass rail transit in place. The Green Line extension would not only help to provide relief, but also serve as the cornerstone of a mass rail transit system on the Westside. It would give us a strategy to deal with the gridlock we have faced for decades. This is a relief strategy that must happen.”

“Despite the lack of support from this committee, I remain hopeful and optimistic about our efforts to extend the Green Line into LAX. I do not consider this vote to be a road block in our journey to mass transit, just a bump in the road -- a minor challenge that we will certainly overcome.”

“I am very confident that the Green Line extension will happen in the very near future. We have gained tremendous momentum in a very short time. People are fed up – they have had enough. Elected officials, transit advocates, and community organizations throughout the Southern California region continue to join the Green Line Coalition day by day, strengthening the impetus to complete this long overdue project. I am determined to see us reach our goal of mass transit on the Westside and will continue to fight for the completion of the Green Line extension.”