



Dear Friend,

Happy Friday, and I hope you had a great week! I was home this week in California's 39th District, working hard for you. Here are the highlights:

### **Helping to Reunite Korean Americans with Family in North Korea**



On Thursday, I helped introduce a bipartisan resolution with Rep. Karen Bass (CA-37) calling on the United States and North Korea to reunite divided Korean American family members who have been separated from each other for over 60 years.

Since the end of the Korean War, an estimated 100,000 Korean Americans have not seen or heard from their loved ones in North Korea. As a Korean American, I understand and have great empathy for Korean Americans' continued separation from their families in North Korea, and I have been pushing to reunite these family members since before serving in Congress. Time is running out to reunite these war-torn families, which is why I am proud to help lead this bipartisan resolution to right this terrible wrong.

### **Funding the 57/60 Confluence Project**

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in strong support of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LA Metro) application for \$30 million in grant funding from the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program to support the *State Route 57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Program* (57/60 Project). This funding request represents just 11% of the future eligible construction phase costs of the Project (\$273.9 million). Given state and local funding commitments of over \$242 million, an INFRA grant award would be significantly leveraged.

Growth in global trade and local socio-economic changes have caused California State Routes (SR) 57 and 60 to become two of the most heavily traveled freight highway corridors in the country. In the eastern San Gabriel Valley – near the convergence of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties – these two major highways merge for approximately 2.5-miles and form a dangerous confluence chokepoint consistently ranked by the American Transportation Research Institute as the worst truck bottleneck in California and one of the worst truck bottlenecks in the U.S.

The requested INFRA grant funding of \$30 million would specifically support the construction of an additional SR 57 travel lane in the northbound direction, new eastbound SR 60 on-ramps, a new eastbound SR 60 bypass off-ramp to Grand Avenue, and the reconstruction of the Grand Avenue overcrossing with a new wider bridge over SR 60. Design of the Project is nearly complete and right-of-way acquisition is underway.

These critical infrastructure improvements will improve the movement of goods and people through the Confluence, which serves as a vital freight highway connection linking Southern California ports, intermodal yards, warehousing complexes and manufacturing facilities that drive the regional, state and national economy and support export-dependent industries throughout the Western United States.

Traffic congestion in the SR 57/60 Confluence area not only reduces the economic competitiveness of the nation's most valuable trade gateway, but it also has adverse local impacts. The chokepoint creates regional traffic spillover into the surrounding cities, causing reduced mobility, accessibility to quality regional transit and barriers to employment for residents from nearby disadvantaged communities seeking freight and logistics-related jobs concentrated in this part of Southern California. The reduced congestion will also benefit local transit agencies that operate in and around the Confluence and are transitioning to zero-emission fleets.

The 57/60 Project will greatly enhance safety and help combat climate change in Southern California. By reducing delays associated with recurrent bottleneck congestion and frequent accidents, the Project will improve the flow of goods and people while simultaneously reducing air quality impacts associated with local truck-related emissions and greenhouse gases (GHG). These outcomes will support the South Coast Air Basin's efforts to achieve air quality goals for a federal non-attainment region striving to improve public health and combat climate change through strategic investment.

The large commitment of local and state funds for the Project demonstrates the priority given to this project of national and regional significance. This importance has only been heightened as Southern California seeks to recover economically from the COVID-19 crisis, which has demonstrated clearly the vital role that goods movement plays in distributing vaccines, bringing food to markets, supplying hospitals with life-saving medicine and personal protective equipment and helping keep businesses stocked with products to sell. With nearly one in every three jobs in Southern California derived from the movement of goods through the region, fixing this chokepoint will support the region's need for greater efficiency that serve the needs of the national and local economy.

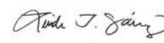
The 57/60 Project meets and exceeds all merit criteria for the INFRA grant program and will allow the Project to start construction two years sooner – a substantial improvement in project delivery time. This expedited project delivery will provide faster benefits to the National Freight Highway System, with millions in taxpayer funds saved as a result.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Your full and fair consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



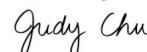
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Young Kim  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress

CA-39 knows well the 57/60, which merges together in Diamond Bar close to the borders of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties and is rated the third-worst congested freeway segment in California and sixth-worst in the U.S.

I led a [bipartisan letter](#) with Rep. Grace Napolitano and members of California's Congressional Delegation to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg urging approval of \$30 million in grant funding to support the State Route 57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief program. This grant would support the construction of additional travel lanes, on-ramps, and off-ramps and repairs. [Learn more.](#)

## Visiting Pulmuone in Fullerton



Pulmuone is a food manufacturing company headquartered in Fullerton. After originating in South Korea after World War II, Pulmuone opened its doors in the U.S. in 1991 and has grown to own more than 75 percent of the nation's tofu market. Besides tofu, the company produces ramen, pasta dishes and sauces to be sold nationwide.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pulmuone has partnered with the Korean Medical Association to provide COVID testing for employees, and has spent company funds to provide PPE, rapid tests, facility disinfection and sick leave to employees. With

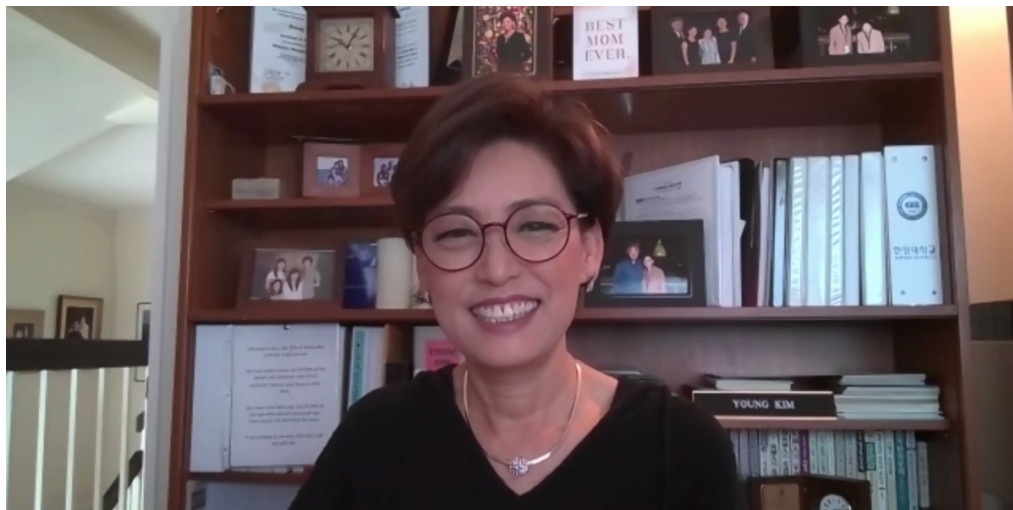
the precautions they've taken, Pulmuone has avoided outbreaks among its employees. I enjoyed [learning](#) about their work to distribute food safely during the pandemic, create new jobs and their promotion of healthy eating in our community.

## Securing Our Border and Fixing our Broken Immigration System



Now more than ever, Republicans and Democrats need to come together to solve the problems our country is facing. I [joined](#) A Starting Point to discuss our nation's broken immigration system and how Congress can come together to secure the border and create a legal, fair and considerate immigration system.

## Talking With Buena Park Middle School Students



Every year, the SIFMA Foundation's Capitol Hill Challenge invites public school students nationwide to participate in an online educational competition to promote personal finance and economics. Students manage a hypothetical \$100,000 online portfolio and invest in real stocks, bonds, mutual funds and cash.

I joined students and teachers from Buena Park Junior High School to speak about the importance of financial education and personal finance. As a mom and small business owner, I know the importance of personal finance and enjoyed sharing my experience and knowledge with this great group of students.

## Honoring Gold Star Spouses Day



We must always remember the tremendous sacrifices made not only by those who answer the call to serve our nation's uniform, but also their families. This Monday was Gold Star Spouses Day, when we honor and thank the loved ones of our heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation. Our words are never enough to thank our service members and their loved ones for their sacrifice.

## Congressional Art Competition



Calling all CA-39 young artists! All high school students are invited to participate in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition for a chance to have their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. **The deadline is Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5pm PT**. Visit my website [HERE](#) to learn more.

## COVID-19

I am committed to helping California's 39th District get through the COVID-19 pandemic better than before. As we work to safely reopen communities and get people back to work, I will do all that I can to make sure my constituents receive the relief you deserve.

Vaccines are currently available for CA-39 residents ages 50+.

- Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment in Orange County.
- Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment in Los Angeles County.
- Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment in San Bernardino County.

- Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our state's vaccination plan.

Find a full list of COVID-19 resources [HERE](#).

## Casework

Need help with a federal agency, like Small Business or the VA? My team and I are here to help. Submit a casework request [HERE](#) and find our privacy release form for casework [HERE](#).

My team and I are here to serve you. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns. I encourage you to follow me on social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at [@RepYoungKim](#).

Sincerely,



Young Kim

