

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND  
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The September 12, 2008, head-on collision between Metrolink Train #111 and a Union Pacific freight train that claimed the lives of 25 people and injured over 100 more provided a tragic example of how human error can transform the daily movement of hundreds of commuter and freight trains on Southern California’s interoperable rail system into a deadly accident.

In the wake of this tragedy, Metrolink and its legislative partners set forth a national initiative to implement new technology called Positive Train Control (PTC) that uses global positioning satellite navigation to communicate with train operators, provide warnings should trains enter into restricted areas and override operations to stop the train to prevent such an accident from happening again.

Federal legislation set forth December 31, 2015, as the deadline for implementation of PTC. While Metrolink has successfully put together the funding to have PTC in place in Southern California by the end of 2013, it is important that the federal government maintain this deadline as part of a comprehensive push to make our national railroad system as safe as possible for the movement of passengers and freight.

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Furthermore, the safest rail system is one governed by PTC but also enhanced with double tracking and grade separations to separate trains from cars and other trains, and crash energy management railcars to make collisions less deadly. Federal support for these types of improvements in upcoming authorization legislation and other funding opportunities will also be vital to Los Angeles County's efforts to build and operate the safest railroad system in the country.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter expressing the Board's support for (1) maintaining the December 31, 2015, federal deadline for implementation of PTC, and (2) additional funding in future authorization legislation for safety improvements such as grade separations, double tracking and crash energy management railcars to the following:

- United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood
- United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Barbara Boxer
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair William "Bill" Shuster
- Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo
- National Transportation Safety Board Chair Deborah A. P. Hersman and
- The Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation

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