

Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Cerritos
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

**Chair**

Ali Sajjad Taj  
Councilmember  
City of Artesia

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Sean Ashton  
Councilmember  
City of Downey

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**Executive Director**

Michael R. Kodama

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Matthew T. Summers

**Ex-Officio**

William Rawlings  
City Manager Representative

\*\*\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

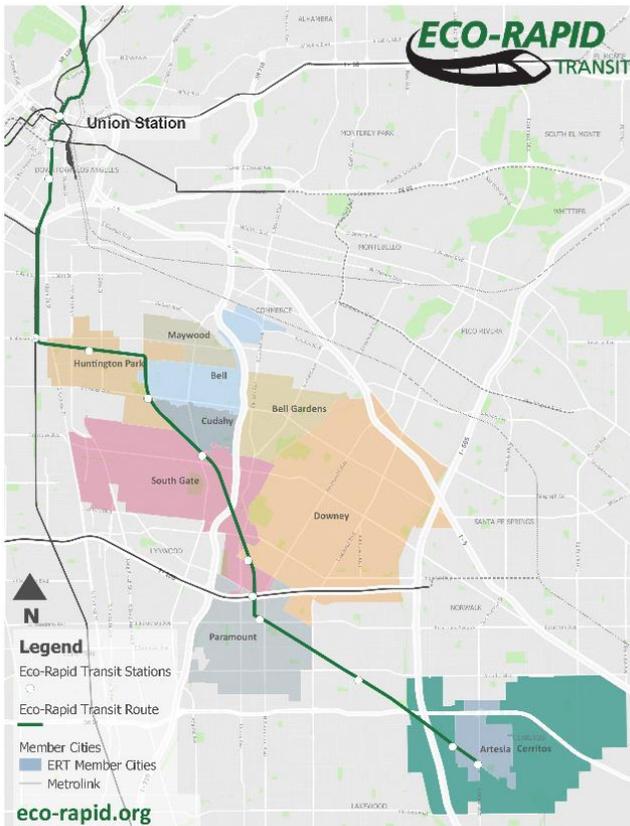
September 23, 2021

**Eco-Rapid Transit Unanimously Supports West Santa Ana Branch and the One Seat Ride from Artesia to Union Station**

**Paramount, California** – On Tuesday, September 21, 2021, the Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors completed its review of the Metro Draft West Santa Ana Branch Environmental Impact report/Environmental Impact Statement and unanimously voted to support Alternative 1, the one seat ride to Union Station. The Board of Directors also recommended inclusion of a station in Little Tokyo (design option 2) as this station provides access to Downtown destinations, the Metro Regional Connector and offers the ability to transfer to destinations in East Los Angeles and eventually Whittier.

Board Chair and Artesia City Councilmember Ali Sajjad Taj stated, "This is an important step in the process of bringing this important rail line to our communities."

Board Vice-Chair and Downey City Councilmember Sean Ashton added, "It is important that we all support the line from Artesia to Union Station. We need to do this project right. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity"



For 20 years, the Eco-Rapid Transit Joint Powers Authority have been working together to bring rail transit to Southeast Los Angeles. This \$9.8 billion 19.4 mile light rail line would connect communities from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles. Now it is becoming closer to reality with the Metro Board of Directors scheduled to select a locally preferred alternative in December or January.

Eco-Rapid Transit consists of 12 members including Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cerritos, Cudahy, Downey, Glendale, Huntington Park, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate and the Burbank Glendale Pasadena Airport Authority. This line will serve a population of 1.4 million people through some of the densest parts of Los Angeles County. Communities such as Maywood, Cudahy, and Huntington Park

have densities that rival Manhattan. Much of the area consists of minority, low-



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income populations. 83.1% of the population are minorities, including over 90% being Hispanic, with about 76% of the residents speaking Spanish. Over 40 languages are spoken in the corridor.

Our board members are local elected officials who care about their communities and recognize the importance of bringing this important rail transit line that can provide 100 years of service.

Board Director and South Gate Councilmember Maria Davila said, "We have been working on this for a long time. We are stronger all working together in support of this project."

We recognized the challenges of obtaining funding to build this project. For our communities, this is also a question of fairness and equity. As Environmental Justice communities, who have been overlooked, only by working together have we been able to bring this transformative project to our communities. It rights a wrong that should have been addressed a long time ago and becomes a catalyst for economic and community development opportunities for our local residents and businesses. It improves mobility creating a new transportation option to get us to jobs, schools, medical care and recreation facilities throughout the region. In many cases, it saves significant time, reducing travel time from hours by bus to under 40 minutes in the corridor.

You can still provide your own comments. Metro is accepting comments on the Draft West Santa Ana Branch light rail project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement until September 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Eco-Rapid Transit, also known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit corridor that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. We are an economic and community development project all connected together by a train.*

For more information about Eco-Rapid Transit, please visit [www.eco-rapid.org](http://www.eco-rapid.org)

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