



For Immediate Release
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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority Approves \$18 Million of Measure R Funding for ECO-RAPID Transit Light-Rail Line *Senator Mendoza Applauds Approval of the Funds*

Sacramento – Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) released the following statement regarding the approval, on an 11 to 0 vote, of \$18 million of Measure R funds by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority Board (MTA) for the Eco-Rapid Transit light-rail line. The funds will be used for predevelopment and planning of Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) along the West Santa Ana Branch.

"I am extremely pleased that the MTA Board of Directors voted to allocate eighteen million dollars of Measure R funds for the ECO-RAPID transit light-rail project.

"There has been tremendous support shown from statewide and regional leaders for this project which will transform our region and provide much-needed transportation options for the Gateway Cities' residents.

"This investment of resources brings us one step closer to ensuring that the necessary funds are available to develop and build the light-rail line to completion.

"I look forward to continuing to work with all our partners to build a 21st century transportation system that will benefit the Gateway Cities' residents for generations"

Background on Eco-Rapid Transit

Eco-Rapid Transit is a joint powers authority of twelve member cities and the Bob Hope Airport Authority created to pursue development of a transit system that will link economic development and transportation in a 40-mile corridor from Bob Hope Airport to Downtown Los Angeles and to Artesia. It will support the creation of thousands of jobs and connect over 4 million residents to the regional transportation system. The project is approved as a Measure R project but will need additional funding, with a significant amount coming from local taxpayers through the existing Measure R or more likely, the new Los Angeles County measure being proposed under SB 767 (de Leon).

The Eco-Rapid Transit project will:

- Use the abandoned West Santa Ana Branch right-of-way to extend a light-rail line from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles by 2027 with subsequent links to Santa Clarita, integrating with the existing Antelope Valley & Anaheim/Santa Ana Line, and possibly the High Speed Rail lines at Norwalk.
- Serve an area of south and southwestern Los Angeles County that is designated in the top 10% priority of Environmental Justice tracts, according to California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) : <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>

- Have an estimated daily ridership of 70,000 to 80,000 people – more than any current or proposed light-rail transit line in the Los Angeles area, due to the high population density of the corridor cities including Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Cudahy, Downey, Gardena, Huntington Park, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate, and Vernon.

A map of the proposed project is attached and may be found on the Eco-Rapid Transit website: <http://eco-rapid.org/Project/maps.shtml>

Background on Measure R

Measure R is a half-cent sales tax approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2008 to finance new transportation projects and programs, and accelerate those already in the pipeline. The tax took effect in July of 2009. Measure R alone does not fully fund all projects. The Measure contains an Expenditure Plan that identifies the projects to be funded and additional funding sources that will be used to complete the projects.

More information on Measure R may be found here: <https://www.metro.net/projects/measure/>

Senator Tony Mendoza, a Los Angeles native and former elementary school teacher in East Los Angeles, represents the 32nd Senate District encompassing portions of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. For more information about Senator Mendoza visit his [website](#) or follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

MISSION STATEMENT

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