

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

Vice-Chair

Sean Ashton
Councilmember
City of Downey

Secretary

Vrej Agajanian
Councilmember
City of Glendale

Treasurer

Jose R. Gonzalez
Mayor
City of Cudahy

Internal Auditor

Alejandra Cortez
Councilmember
City of Bell Gardens

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Matthew Summers

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings
City Manager Representative

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

July 22, 2021

Artesia Councilmember Ali Sajjad Taj Elected as Chair of Eco-Rapid Transit. Eco-Rapid Transit Board Officers also selected for Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Internal Auditor Slots

Paramount, California - The Eco-Rapid Transit Board has elected its officers who will lead the Authority in the upcoming year. The next Board Meeting is on Wednesday August 11th at 6:30 p.m.

On July 14, 2021, City of Artesia Councilmember Ali Sajjad Taj was elected as the Eco-Rapid Transit Board Chair. The Board also elected City of Downey Councilmember Sean Ashton as Vice-Chair, City of Glendale Vrej Agajanian as Secretary, City of Cudahy Mayor Jose R. Gonzalez as Treasurer, and City of Bell Gardens Councilmember Alejandra Cortez as Internal Auditor.

Eco-Rapid Transit Chair and Artesia Councilmember Taj was first elected to the Artesia City Council in December 2013 and served as Mayor for the 2016-2017 and 2019-20 term. Chair Taj has been in the financial services industry for two decades and holds key leadership positions on a variety of local, regional and state organizations.



Chair Taj stated, "I am honored and thankful to the board members for electing me as the Chair of Eco-Rapid Transit during this important time. I look forward to having the opportunity to lead the organization as we work with all of our partners to make the West Santa Ana Branch a reality from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles and to connect with our northern members, improving regional rail from Burbank Airport, Glendale and to Union Station. These projects are critical transportation links for our communities."

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. Eco-Rapid Transit is committed to working with local, regional, state and federal agencies to connect our communities, create jobs and generate economic opportunities along the entire corridor from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles and from Downtown Los Angeles to Burbank Airport. The proposed West Santa Ana Branch project (Artesia to Union Station) is undergoing Environmental Review. Studies are underway to improve rail transit service from Downtown Los Angeles to Burbank Airport. 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

Press contact: Michael R. Kodama
Tel: 562-663-6850 Cell: 818-468-8593 mkodama@eco-rapid.org