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MAY 25, 2021

TO: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

FROM: **PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON**
              CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: **REIMAGINING HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

ISSUE

On May 20th I met with California State Secretary of Transportation David Kim and the Director of the California State Department of Transportation Toks Omishakin to discuss our partnership with respect to the State Highway System. I have issued a statement that we need to reimagine our investment in the highway system and engage all stakeholders, including corridor communities, in an open-minded manner to explore and create a set of principles guiding future highway improvements.

BACKGROUND

Recently, there has been significant attention specifically on the 710 South Corridor. The issues discussed are representative of the larger concerns about the oftentimes destructive harms of the highway system, particularly in disadvantaged communities, in Los Angeles County. It is clear that we need a new way of approaching these issues. This process must include a renewed commitment to inclusive and meaningful engagement of communities as well as a steadfast commitment to address the equity, displacement, air quality, congestion and economic concerns that have plagued communities around major freeway corridors.

NEXT STEPS

Metro and Caltrans staff, including Metro's Executive Officer for Equity and Race, will develop a charter that outlines how we will engage stakeholders to develop a set of principles that will govern how we address highway projects in Metro's local sales tax measures. These principles must include a thoughtful approach to engaging all stakeholders in the county, especially those who are most impacted, to address congestion, air quality, health, displacement, and equity, among other issues. The intent of this document would be to provide a path forward to gain regional consensus on a viable strategy for our future highway system.