

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL #1: ENSURE THE STATE CONTINUES TO SECURE, PROTECT, AND FULLY FUND THE MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Proposed Activities:

Protect Metro's key fund sources to deliver and advance equitable transportation options;

Secure proportionate share of state fund allocations under the various transportation funding programs created and expanded under the provisions of Senate Bill 1 for Los Angeles County;

Support and preserve key funding sources under Senate Bill 1;

Communicate the importance of stable transportation funding to improve mobility in Los Angeles County, foster economic development and create jobs;

Protect Public Transportation Account revenues which have been funded by the sales tax on diesel fuel;

Secure proportionate share of federal funds allocated via state mechanisms, such as CMAQ and alternative transportation programs; and

Oppose any legislation and/or statewide initiatives that would jeopardize funding or repeal key components of Senate Bill 1.

GOAL #2: SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES AIMED AT INCREASING FUNDING FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Proposed Activities:

Support transportation funding proposals and ensure that they are structured to support Metro's priority projects, initiatives and programs;

Work with statewide partners on any efforts to develop new transportation-related fees or taxes to fund mobility improvements in Los Angeles County;

Support legislation that authorizes, clarifies or expands the implementation of innovative funding mechanisms for regional transportation planning agencies and the County of Los Angeles;

Support legislation that protects Metro’s authority to collect dedicated local sales tax revenues and clarifies the State’s implementation of the Wayfair Decision;

Monitor the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration’s efforts to implement the Wayfair Decision; and

GOAL #3: WORK TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF METRO’S BOARD- ADOPTED LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)

Proposed Activities:

Pursue strategies and funding opportunities to implement the various modal programs in the Board-adopted LRTP;

Work to secure additional funds through the various state funding programs including but not limited to, Local Partnership Program, Active Transportation Program, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, State Highway Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, State Transportation Improvement Program, State Highway Operations and Preservation Program, freight corridor programs and bond funds;

Support legislation that would better position Metro to receive funding through various state programs; and

Support legislation that facilitates and/or clarifies the use of public private partnerships and other innovative project delivery mechanisms for transit projects.

GOAL #4: SUPPORT LEGISLATION, REGULATORY ACTION, AND FUNDING INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSIT RIDERS AND ENHANCE THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Proposed Activities:

Support legislation and appropriate levels of funding from the state budget to support implementation of a fareless transit system.

Support legislation, initiatives, and programs for additional funding, services and resources to address the homelessness crisis, including any opportunities for direct assistance to Metro and our partner agencies;

Monitor legislation and funding opportunities that impact and incentivize the development of affordable and transit-adjacent housing;

Support any efforts to increase funding and expand eligibility to transit agencies to aid in the fight to end homelessness;

Support legislation that incorporates elements of Metro's transit-oriented communities strategies in regional housing planning and development;

Increase flexibility for Metro to deliver transit-supportive, community supported, and neighborhood appropriate uses;

Support legislation that would support or expand Los Angeles County's existing Commuter Benefits Programs;

Support legislation, regulation, and state budget action that support Metro's goals of eliminating disparities, meaningfully engaging communities, advancing equitable outcomes, and increasing access and mobility options for marginalized and vulnerable people;

Support legislation and explore potential funding mechanisms that would impact Metro's ability to implement the goals and objectives in studies currently underway at Metro, such as the Better Bus Initiative and improving the customer experience; and

GOAL #5: SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND IMPROVE SERVICE ON THE REGION'S COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM

Proposed Activities:

Advocate for additional state funding to increase the safety of the commuter rail system in Los Angeles County and the entire Metrolink service area;

Support legislation and actions that would benefit Metrolink's SCORE program of capital projects;

Support additional funding for enhanced commuter rail safety, especially for automatic train stop/positive train control systems, grade separations and double tracking single track portions of Metrolink's service area; and

Support legislation and funding programs that promote the accelerated certification of new rail vehicle technologies, prioritizing zero emission propulsion, and pilot programs which test their viability, and pursue funding opportunities to deploy such technology whenever and wherever they become available.

GOAL #6: MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE'S CAP AND TRADE PROGRAMS

Proposed Activities:

Ensure Cap & Trade funds are allocated to transportation, that Los Angeles County receives a proportionate share; and

Support Legislation that would allocate additional Cap & Trade funds to support key Metro priorities, such as Metro's transit capital and operations program, fare-free transit, zero-emission bus conversion, and zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure expansion, including funding to support zero-emission trucks in heavily-traveled freight corridors.

GOAL #7: COORDINATE WITH OUR LOCAL AND STATE PARTNERS TO INCORPORATE THE REGION'S NEEDS IN EMERGING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

Proposed Activities:

Monitor continued implementation of AB 32, SB 743, and SB 375 (including sustainable community strategies and related initiatives/documents);

Work in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Transit Association (CTA), California Energy Commission (CEC), Strategic Growth Council (SGC), Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to support Metro's projects and programs;

Advocate the connection between transit operations funding, SB 375 and other state global warming policies, programs and initiatives;

Support initiatives that promote greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies such as vehicle miles travelled reduction, active transportation, and operational efficiency best practices;

Encourage development and utilization of regulations and technologies that would enhance the ability to expand, deploy and operate Metro Bike Share;

Support continued efforts to encourage smart growth and other connectivity and livability principles and their interaction with transit and highway investments while preserving authority of local agencies;

Support legislative efforts to fund programs affecting environmentally sensitive stakeholders and clean air programs in our region, particularly with regards to regional transit planning, construction, and procurement efforts;

Support legislation that would allocate funding for climate resiliency planning and implementation for transit;

Support new initiatives that encourage the use of advanced, environmentally friendly and cost-effective strategies in the construction and retrofit of transit facilities including infrastructure related to renewable energy, low impact development, sustainable construction practices, and similar technologies;

Advocate for funding for Metro's first/last mile, bike and pedestrian projects under the State's Active Transportation and Local Planning Grants programs;

Monitor and support legislation that would authorize the cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to develop and implement strategies to reach Vision Zero goals of improving safety and eliminating traffic-related fatalities;

Identify, monitor, and support legislation that will advance the implementation of Metro's Street Safety, Data Sharing, and Collaboration Policy goals; and

Support new and existing initiatives that complement the development and subsequent implementation of Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Strategic Plan and other Board directives.

GOAL #8: ACTIVELY WORK WITH STATE, REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INTERESTS AND ENHANCE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AND PROGRAMS STATEWIDE

Proposed Activities:

Support efforts to secure funding and/or obtain authority to generate additional funding for bus transit capital, operations, security needs, corridor projects, soundwalls, bike projects, Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) and other important transportation projects and programs;

Work with other agencies and the State to seek remedies to increase funding for Metro's Freeway Services Patrol (FSP) operations;

Oppose any efforts to modify Senate Bill 1 (Beall, 2017) programs that would reduce funding for Los Angeles County;

Work cooperatively with other transit agencies throughout the State, including the CTA, to secure and increase funding for transportation services, projects and programs;

Identify and pursue opportunities for funding and to enhance authority where necessary to improve security and safety for customers, employees and property.

GOAL #9: SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIONS THAT ENHANCE AND PROTECT METRO'S ABILITY TO DELIVER INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND SERVICES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Proposed Activities:

Support efforts to clarify the oversight responsibilities of the PUC with respect to rail transit;

Oppose legislation that would seek to restructure the Metro Board of Directors;

Oppose legislation that would preempt collective bargaining, impose benefits in collective bargaining agreements or restrict the rights of local agencies in the collective bargaining process;

Preserve our authority in regional transportation funding decisions including those granted through SB 45;

Support legislation that would support or enhance Metro's long-term plans for energy resiliency;

Continue to advocate for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reforms for and specified exemptions for transportation projects with continued collaboration of statewide stakeholders and organizations;

Support initiatives and legislation to enhance Metro's ability to ensure safety of development and construction activities within or adjacent to Metro's infrastructure and right-of-way, in coordination with local municipalities, developers, and utility companies.

Monitor the implementation of pension reform (PEPRA) so that Metro is able to maintain federal funding, a stable work force, and ensure adequate succession planning;

Monitor the implementation of AB 5 (Gonzalez, 2019) and continue to evaluate the potential impacts on Metro's programs and services.

Monitor regulations and legislation that would clarify the State's distribution of sales tax revenues to Los Angeles County and Metro;

Coordinate with regional partners and monitor the State's autonomous vehicle regulations and ensure that federal, state and local regulations are aligned;

Support efforts to enhance the use of electronic fare payment or smart card technology and allow for ease of access for qualification for low-income riders;

Support legislation that would authorize and promote the use of technology to enhance safety, security and operations for our bus and rail operations;

Explore and pursue opportunities to accelerate and reduce costs on Metro projects;
and

Support legislation and funding opportunities that enhance Metro's ability to deliver the transformative transportation infrastructure and operational enhancement projects needed in Los Angeles County to support the mobility of the region in the 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games.

GOAL #10: OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATION THAT COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT METRO'S ABILITY TO OPERATE THE EXPRESSLANES PROGRAM AND SUPOPORT LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS FOR FUTURE EXPRESSLANES EXPANSION AND OTHER PRICING STRATEGIES

Proposed Activities:

Support legislation that -

1. Encourages development and utilization of regulations and technologies that would enhance the ability to verify vehicle occupancy and toll collection/payment.
2. Enhances Metro's ability to enforce the ExpressLanes Board adopted toll policy.
3. Amends or clarifies California vehicle code sections to authorize Metro to establish and enforce occupancy requirements in the ExpressLanes;
4. Amends Streets and Highways codes that impact Metro's ability to perform toll related functions including interoperability with other California toll agencies.
5. Supports and enables Metro's ability to expand Metro's ExpressLanes network upon Board approval.
6. Provides clarification of AB 194 regarding roles and responsibilities of Metro and Caltrans.
7. Supports and authorizes flexibility in how net toll-revenues are re-invested in support of an expanded corridor network of ExpressLanes in Los Angeles County.
8. Explore and support legislation that would authorize Metro to expand the use of pricing in Los Angeles County in partnership with local municipalities.

Oppose legislation that would:

1. Negatively impact Metro's ability to manage ExpressLanes demand utilizing congestion pricing.

2. Negatively impact financial viability and local control of ExpressLanes revenues.
3. Limit Metro's ability to operate and expand the ExpressLanes network.
4. Redirect SHOPP funding for maintaining the corridor.

GOAL #11: ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES AND FUNDING THAT INCREASE THE SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND OTHER TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE USES NEAR METRO CORRIDORS

Proposed Activities:

Support legislation, initiatives, and programs that aim to –

- Reduce the costs and time to deliver affordable housing;
- Complement Metro's TOC Policy (including anti-displacement and anti-gentrification policies);
- Reduce Surplus Land Act impacts to Metro's Joint Development Program;
- Stabilize and enhance housing affordability in existing communities;
- Provide resources to Metro, LA County jurisdictions and other partner agencies to develop more collaborative land use policies that support equitable transit-oriented communities; and

Identify and pursue opportunities for additional funding and policy reform for Southern California transportation infrastructure and transit oriented housing projects;

Support legislation and funding opportunities that incentivize, support, and accelerate the development of affordable and transit-adjacent housing;

Work with legislators and the Governor's office to preserve and increase the ability of the Joint Development Program to deliver on its portfolio approach to achieving housing goals;

Identify and pursue opportunities to consolidate and streamline applying for transportation infrastructure and transit-oriented development and housing grants;

Seek to program modifications that recognize Metro's land discount as a significant contribution to affordable projects; and

Support legislation that would enhance opportunities for Opportunity Zones, Value Capture or related concepts and mechanisms to fund transportation infrastructure or promote Transit-Oriented Developments and Metro's Transit Oriented Communities strategy.

GOAL #12: SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT HIGH SPEED RAIL (HSR) IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Metro supports the California High Speed Rail Project.

Metro is encouraged by the efforts to incorporate a blended corridor concept in its planning and to continue to evaluate and identify the need to connect the project to Los Angeles County.

Metro has identified a series of investments in Los Angeles County that would support future high-speed rail and would provide current benefits to commuters across the region. These investments are on shared corridors and create independent utility.

We encourage the State to make specific commitments to funding the segment connecting to Los Angeles County and to maintain this segment as a high priority in future plans.

Metro supports the allocation of funding to elements of the blended corridor concept in Los Angeles County to support the ultimate completion of the High Speed Rail project.

Proposed Activities:

Advocate for the full allocation of funding to the Link Union Station project Phase A and Phase B and other corridor enhancements in Los Angeles County which support the ultimate completion of the High Speed Rail project;

Ensure timely implementation of Proposition 1A including allocation of connectivity funds;

Support legislation that preserves “book-end” funding for early-action projects identified as vital to the delivery of the HSR project in Southern California;

Support efforts to ensure that NEPA assignment authority for highway and transit projects is preserved; and

Support streamlining project approvals under Caltrans’ NEPA assignment authority.

GOAL #13: SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE I-710 CLEAN TRUCK PROGRAM AND SECURE APPROVAL OF KEY FREIGHT PROJECTS AT THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Proposed Activities:

Support efforts to fund goods movement and freight projects through the CTC;

Advocate that Los Angeles County receive a proportionate share of funding through the State's Trade Corridor Enhancement Program and other state funding for zero-emission heavy-duty trucks;

Advocate for the deployment of clean-fuel trucks funded by the State in Los Angeles County;

Support regional and statewide efforts to secure and preserve funding for freight corridors; and

Support regional and statewide efforts to fund innovations in clean-freight technology including the deployment of on-dock rail improvements, clean vehicle charging infrastructure, and zero-emission trucks.

GOAL #14: SPONSOR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ENHANCE METRO'S ABILITY TO DELIVER ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Proposed Activities:

Sponsor legislation to authorize Metro to use job-order contracting.

Explore and potentially sponsor legislation that would clarify provisions of state law that impact Metro's real property transactions and ground leasing for transit-oriented developments, and affordable housing and other agency uses.