

2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM GOALS

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

Proposed Activities:

Protect Metro's key fund sources;

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

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 #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 EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY 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; and

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.

GOAL #5: 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 program, zero-emission bus conversion and fare-free transit.

GOAL #6: 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 and SB 375 (including sustainable community strategies and related initiatives/ documents);

Work in partnership with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Transit Association (CTA), 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;

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

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 legislation and regulatory actions that would affect redevelopment, housing and regional planning efforts statewide and in Los Angeles County;

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

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

Proposed Activities:

Work with Governor Newsom's Administration to preserve and increase flexibility in the use of transportation, development, and housing funds;

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

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;

Support formula distribution of the State's FSP program funding that addresses Los Angeles County's population, congestion levels and service performance;

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;

Support or sponsor legislation that would create new financial incentives, including and expansion of the welfare exemption for units covenanted at up to 120% of Area Median Income, to facilitate the development of affordable housing around transit; and

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

GOAL #8: 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;

Monitor the implementation of pension reform (PEPRA) so that Metro is able to maintain 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.

Support legislative efforts that would provide certain exemptions for the taxicab industry and disabled access transportation operators from the provisions outlined in AB 5 (Gonzalez, 2019);

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;

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

Support legislation and funding opportunities that support the Board approved Twenty-Eight by 2028 initiative.

GOAL #9: OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATION THAT COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT METRO'S ABILITY TO OPERATE THE EXPRESSLANES PROGRAM AND SUPOORT LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS FOR FUTURE EXPRESSLANES EXPANSION

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 enforce occupancy requirements in the ExpressLanes;
4. Amends Streets and Highways codes that impact Metro's 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 expand the ExpressLanes network.

GOAL #10: ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES AND FUNDING TO ASSIST IN HELPING THE COUNTY END HOMELESSNESS AND ADVANCE SYSTEM, SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT GOALS

Proposed Activities:

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 legislation or administrative actions that would designate Metro's transit system as critical infrastructure to prioritize funding and align agency policies; and

Monitor legislation, initiatives and programs that would impact Metro's system security and law enforcement activities.

GOAL #11: ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES AND FUNDING THAT INCREASE THE SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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);
- Stabilize and enhance housing affordability in existing communities; and
- Provide resources to Metro, LA County jurisdictions and other partner agencies to develop land use policies that support equitable transit-oriented communities;

Support legislation and funding opportunities that incentivize and support 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 grants; and,

Seek to program modifications that recognize Metro’s land discount as a significant contribution to affordable projects.

GOAL #12: SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTYWIDE COMMUTER TAX BENEFIT ORDINANCE AND TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Proposed Activities:

Monitor legislation that would enable Los Angeles County to implement the nation’s most aggressive commuter tax benefits program to reimburse and credit the cost of sustainable transportation options and that would strengthen Metro’s ability to carry out a countywide TDM program.

Support legislation and explore funding opportunities that would allow for Metro to establish a robust and comprehensive Transportation Demand Management program;

Support CARB’s efforts to implement the State of California’s Parking Cash-Out law for worksites within Los Angeles County; and

Support legislation that would expand authority for Metro or other entities to establish Commuter Benefit Programs.

Explore legislative remedies to establish or expand Los Angeles County’s existing Commuter Benefits Programs.

GOAL #13: 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.

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 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 #14: 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;

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.

GOAL #15: SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS AND FUNDING THAT WILL ENHANCE TRANSIT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR POLICIES AND FUNDING THAT WILL HELP METRO TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICE AND THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Proposed Activities:

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

Support legislation that supports Metro’s goals of achieving equity and expanding access to transit for riders in LA County’s disadvantaged communities.

GOAL #16: SPONSOR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ENHANCE METRO'S ABILITY TO DELIVER ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Explore and support legislation to streamline and clarify electrical utility billing for Metro.

Explore and support legislation that would clarify provisions of the EIFD statute to fund Metro's projects and programs.

Support or sponsor legislation that would create new financial incentives, including and expansion of the welfare exemption for units covenanted at up to 120% of Area Median Income, to facilitate the development of affordable housing around transit.

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

Proposed Activities:

Sponsor legislation that would clarify provisions of CEQA to enhance Metro's ability to deliver Measure M projects and affordable housing projects.

Sponsor legislation that would authorize the use of forward-facing cameras on Metro's buses and in dedicated bus lanes.

Sponsor legislation to update various provisions of Metro's procurement statutes to conform those provisions to those of other agencies.

Sponsor legislation to amend provisions in state law to support the implementation of the CEO's potential Fareless System Initiative Recommendations.