



Denny Zane, Move LA

Comments on the Long Range Transportation Plan

On behalf of Move LA, I urge the Metro Board to move forward with the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan as recommended in the Metro staff report.

It is a comprehensive, countywide plan that offers very significant expansion of transit services in many communities throughout the county. Taken together with the previous Metro investments in transit, it will give Los Angeles County the clean, robust transit system we desperately need. And it will remove from Los Angeles County the burden and the stigma of being an utterly auto dependent community.

Most importantly, this LRTP is true to the will of our voters who, remarkably, voted nearly 70% approval for a measure that provided for nearly 70% investments in transit projects rather than highway.

I fear that by failing to come together behind this plan, we will shatter the trust of our voters and make it all the more difficult to regain their trust in the future.

And, let's not undermine the spirit of unity that was reflected in Measure R by competing with ourselves for federal funds.

I believe the Board made the right choice - on the merits - in making the full Wilshire Subway and the Regional Connector their federal priorities and we should stick with that decision.

The Wilshire Subway project and the Regional Connector projects stand far above all other proposed transit projects for the population and jobs density they serve, for the transit dependent populations they will serve, for the number of activity centers they will serve, for their ability to stimulate system wide growth in ridership, and therefore for their ability to make a significant improvement in mobility and ease congestion and reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Rather than clamber over each other in the scramble for scarce federal funds, let's do what we have already proven works. Let's work to create the resource pool we need to complete, not just the subway, but all Measure R projects in one decade rather than three.

Move LA is committed to working with all Los Angeles communities to find strategies and funding to accelerate the implementation of all Measure R projects and to facilitate the identification of major new projects that we should begin to plan immediately.

Denny Zane
Executive Director, Move LA