



Building a Coalition for a Comprehensive  
Transportation System in Los Angeles County

302 Arizona Avenue, Number 18, Santa Monica, CA 90401  
310.310.2390

## The 30/10 Plan... *putting the LA green economy on the fast track!*

January 4, 2010

Senator Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Senator Boxer

Recently, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles articulated a program to put the green LA County economy, and the green economy of California, on the fast track! ***He calls the program the 30/10 Plan.***

The mayor's 30/10 Plan envisions a partnership between Los Angeles County Metro and the Federal Government to implement the voter approved 30-year Measure R transportation plan in only 10 years!

Move LA strongly agrees with Mayor Villaraigosa. We believe that this effort is readily achievable if political leaders in Los Angeles and in Washington, DC, make the necessary commitments. Every project approved in Measure R can be completed in ten years or less - if the Federal Government shows support for LA Metro's efforts comparable to the support it has shown other metropolitan communities in America.

**We urge you to champion proposals to provide such support in the Senate when the opportunity presents itself.** That means, **First**, champion the Los Angeles County Metro application for New Starts funding for the Wilshire Subway and the Downtown Regional Connector; **Second**, Support the creation of a federal loan program, such as a National Infrastructure Development Bank, or an expanded and enhanced TIFIA program, that can make a significant loan to LA County Metro to help implement Measure R projects.

Any combination of the above that yields early access to \$8 billion in grants and/or loans will enable LA County Metro to complete the voter approved Measure R program in one decade rather than three.

If we succeed, we can: 1) dramatically stimulate the California economy and generate thousands of new, well-paid jobs; 2) markedly reduce traffic congestion in Los Angeles County; and 3) significantly reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Here is the background.

In November, 2008, the voters of Los Angeles County voted an extraordinary 67.8% Yes for Measure R, voting to increase the sales tax \_ cent in the county to raise nearly \$40 billion over the next thirty years to finance investments in our transportation infrastructure. Remarkably, nearly 70% of Measure R investments will pay for enhanced public transit, including completion of the Wilshire Blvd "subway to the sea," a half-dozen new and extended light rail systems, several new Bus Rapid Transit lines, and an expansion of our bus fleet.

LA County voters really stepped to the plate.

The good news is, Measure R transit improvements are now funded and will be completed! The bad news is, if Measure R funds are all we have, some projects will be completed in the next decade and others will not be completed for three decades.



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The only reason completion of Measure R's transit program will take thirty years is the timing of our funding! Yet, completing the job in one decade, rather than three decades, will substantially reduce project costs and dramatically enhance economic and environmental benefits.

As we stated earlier, we need our Senators and the Los Angeles County congressional delegation to champion Metro efforts to fast track this program by supporting two things:

**First**, champion the Los Angeles County Metro application for New Starts funding for the Wilshire Subway and the Downtown Regional Connector, the two projects that will most dramatically improve the overall efficacy of our transit system. (Since New York won a \$4 billion New Starts award under the Bush Administration, we believe a similar award for Los Angeles should be possible under the Obama Administration. Los Angeles, the gateway to the Pacific Rim, is equally important to our nation's economy.)

In fact, we urge support for LA Metro efforts to secure an Early Systems Work Agreement, just as New Jersey recently won for the Hudson River tunnel to Manhattan.

**Second**, Support the creation of a federal loan program, such as a National Infrastructure Development Bank, or an expanded and enhanced TIFIA program, that can make a significant loan to LA County Metro for transportation projects at low interest rates secured by our Measure R revenue stream.

In so doing we believe that we will generate thousands of good jobs, reduce congestion significantly, and create a showcase program for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the former capital of the auto culture.

We thank you for your service and attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Denny Zane,  
Executive Director  
Move LA

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