



Board Report

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2018**

SUBJECT: REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE report by the **Chief Executive Officer**.

- **Letter from Solis, Hahn, and Garcetti.**

September 15, 2018

Mr. Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Mr. Washington:

In 1998, financial strain combined with a ballot measure restricting spending on the Eastside subway crippled the development of transportation infrastructure east of Downtown Los Angeles. The results of decisions made 20 years ago have created a marked disparity in investments in Los Angeles' eastern portion. Now is the time to examine our priorities and correct an inequity that has left a low-income transit dependent community stranded.

As you know, Metro built and launched its first rail line, the Blue Line, in 1990. Soon after, more other rail projects were planned and constructed including the Red Line to North Hollywood and what is now the Purple Line along Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue. Despite the potential for high ridership, the forced halt to the Eastside subway signaled a preference for projects in West Los Angeles.

By prioritizing projects in West Los Angeles, Metro has successfully secured more than \$3 billion in federal funds for the Westside Purple Line. The same focus that helped secure those funds is necessary to achieving our regional goals and ensuring Los Angeles's Eastside is no longer underfunded and its population's needs are met.

Los Angeles was awarded the Summer Olympics of 2028 in 2017, providing an opportunity to accelerate Measure M projects and right an historic wrong. With the Olympic spotlight on Los Angeles, the global expectation is for us to deliver a robust transportation system. To achieve this goal we must be aggressive, which is why Metro is discussing the forward-thinking Twenty-Eight by '28 initiative that focuses the agency on completing 28 major transit projects, highway projects, and key transportation links by 2028.

To deliver on our goals and finally build a world class transportation system that includes the East Los Angeles County, Metro needs to create a financial plan and a policy to support the implementation of 28 projects.

Having a financial plan will help correct the disparities of the past by accelerating the Gold Line Eastside Extension project. Many years ago metro began the planning and environmental phase of the Eastside Extension project. Now it is time to put those plans to use and make up for lost time. According to the Measure M expenditure plan, the Eastside

Extension is scheduled to be completed by 2035 with more than \$1 billion allocated by Measure M for one leg of the project. A healthy Board discussion to consider an acceleration will help us make educated decisions about the many priorities under consideration and will accelerate planning and construction of mega projects like the Eastside Extension project and completion of the 28 projects.

We look forward to working with you to start this conversation and settle on a financial plan to reach our goals and ensure Metro is in position to make significant investments in East Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Hilda L. Solis
Los Angeles County Supervisor



Janice Hahn
Los Angeles County Supervisor



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles