Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority
One Gateway Plaza
3rd Floor Board Room
Los Angeles, CA

Metro

Board Report

File #: 2026-0304, **File Type:** Policy **Agenda Number:** 6.

AD HOC BOARD COMPOSITION COMMITTEE
APRIL 27, 2026

SUBJECT: GUIDING VALUES FOR AD HOC BOARD COMPOSITION COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT the guiding values to support and inform the Ad Hoc Board Committee's deliberations regarding governance considerations (Attachment A).

ISSUE

As the Metro Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee considers governance-related issues in the context of Measure G, it is appropriate to identify guiding values that frame and inform Committee deliberations. This report presents a set of potential values aligned with Metro's mission, Strategic Plan, and adopted principles for the Ad Hoc Committee's approval.

BACKGROUND

The passage of Measure G represents the most significant change to Los Angeles County governance. While Measure G does not apply to Metro and does not alter Metro's governance structure, it has prompted broader discussions regarding governance alignment, accountability, and representation within the County.

Metro remains a separate legal entity governed by state statute, with responsibilities that include stewardship of countywide transportation revenues, oversight of long-term capital investments, and delivery of services to a diverse regional population. In this context, staff identified a set of guiding values, first presented to the Committee at its March meeting as a receive and file item, that may assist the Committee in framing its deliberations and are now brought forward for adoption.

DISCUSSION

To frame the Committee's discussion, the following guiding values are intended to help ground deliberations in shared principles that reflect Metro's statutory role, regional responsibilities, and long-term obligations to riders and taxpayers. Together, they provide a values-based lens through which potential governance considerations can be evaluated.

Guiding Values

- **Legal Integrity** - Governance changes shall maintain Metro's status as an independent legal entity governed by state statute.

- **Intergovernmental Balance** - Metro should reflect a regional body that balances the interests of the county, city of Los Angeles, and the other 87 cities, councils of government, and state interests.

- **Electoral Accountability** - Governance should reflect clear accountability to countywide voters.

- **Regional Equity** - Board composition should ~~reflect~~ represent the geographic, demographic, and economic diversity of Los Angeles County, with proportional consideration given to the communities that most rely on and utilize the Metro system.

- **Transparency and Public Trust** - Governance structures and any changes should be understandable, explainable, and defensible to the public.

- **Fiscal Stewardship** - Decision-making authority shall be grounded in responsibility for long-term fiscal risk, including budgets, debt, and capital programs, and shall not impose additional costs or obligations on taxpayers.

- **Functional Effectiveness** - Governance should support stable oversight, institutional memory, and the Board's ability to make timely, informed, and high-quality decisions, particularly for multi-decade investments and programs.

- **Customer Experience** - Governance should support decisions that prioritize customer experience, rider outcomes, and system performance, while recognizing the full range of users, stakeholders and infrastructure overseen by Metro, including transit, active transportation, highways and Metro-owned assets.

- **Adaptability** - Governance structures should be resilient and flexible in response to future changes in county or regional governance.

Last month, the Committee discussed proposed guiding values intended to inform its deliberations. During that discussion, Committee members expressed a desire to more meaningfully incorporate local stakeholder perspectives into the regional equity framework, as well as to broaden the conversation to reflect the full range of roles Metro plays in the transportation system.
In response, staff have incorporated these principles into the materials presented here. Specifically, the Intergovernmental Balance section has been revised to reflect all 88 cities and Councils of Governments, and the Regional Equity section has been updated to provide proportional consideration to communities that most rely on and utilize Metro services.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

This action has no direct impact on safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This action has no financial impact.

EQUITY PLATFORM

This item does not propose changes to Metro governance, policies, or programs. The identification of guiding values that include regional equity, accountability, and customer experience supports Metro's commitment to equitable outcomes by encouraging governance discussions that consider the diverse needs of communities and riders across Los Angeles County.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED OUTCOME

VMT and VMT per capita in Los Angeles County are lower than national averages, the lowest in the SCAG region, and on the lower end of VMT per capita statewide, with these declining VMT trends due in part to Metro's significant investment in rail and bus transit.* Metro's Board-adopted VMT reduction targets align with California's statewide climate goals, including achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. To ensure continued progress, all Board items are assessed for their potential impact on VMT.

As part of these ongoing efforts, this item is not expected to contribute to further reductions in VMT. Because the Metro Board has adopted an agency-wide VMT Reduction Target, and this item supports the overall function of the agency, this item is consistent with the goals of reducing VMT.

*Based on population estimates from the United States Census and VMT estimates from Caltrans' Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data between 2001-2019.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This recommendation supports Metro Strategic Plan goal 5 related to organizational excellence, customer focus, equity, and transparent governance by establishing shared values for Committee deliberations.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Ad Hoc Committee may choose to amend the guiding values or to not adopt them.

NEXT STEPS

Upon adoption of the guiding values, staff and the Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee will refer to them in future discussions and recommendations.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A - Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee Guiding Values

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Attachment A

Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee Guiding Values

- **Legal Integrity** – Governance changes shall maintain Metro's status as an independent legal entity governed by state statute.

- **Intergovernmental Balance** – Metro should reflect a regional body that balances the interests of the county, city of Los Angeles, and the other 87 cities, councils of government, and state interests.

- **Electoral Accountability** – Governance should reflect clear accountability to countywide voters.

- **Regional Equity** – Board composition should ~~reflect~~ represent the geographic, demographic, and economic diversity of Los Angeles County, with proportional consideration given to the communities that most rely on and utilize the Metro system.

- **Transparency and Public Trust** – Governance structures and any changes should be understandable, explainable, and defensible to the public.

- **Fiscal Stewardship** – Decision-making authority shall be grounded in responsibility for long-term fiscal risk, including budgets, debt, and capital programs, and shall not impose additional costs or obligations on taxpayers.

- **Functional Effectiveness** – Governance should support stable oversight, institutional memory, and the Board's ability to make timely, informed, and high-quality decisions, particularly for multi-decade investments and programs.

- **Customer Experience** – Governance should support decisions that prioritize customer experience, rider outcomes, and system performance, while recognizing the full range of users, stakeholders and infrastructure overseen by Metro, including transit, active transportation, highways and Metro-owned assets.

- **Adaptability** – Governance structures should be resilient and flexible in response to future changes in county or regional governance.

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Guiding Values for AD HOC BOARD COMPOSITION COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee

April 2026

DEFINING METRO'S GOVERNING VALUES

Value	Definition (Modified Based on March Ad Hoc Discussion)
Legal Integrity	Governance changes shall maintain Metro's status as an independent legal entity governed by state statute.
Intergovernmental Balance	Metro should reflect a regional body that balances the interests of the County, City of Los Angeles and other 87 cities, councils of governments, and state interests.
Electoral Accountability	Governance should reflect clear accountability to countywide voters.
Regional Equity	Board composition should ~~reflect~~ represent the geographic, demographic, and economic diversity of Los Angeles County with proportional consideration given to the communities that most rely on and utilize the Metro system.
Transparency & Public Trust	Governance structures and any changes should be understandable, explainable, and defensible to the public.

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DEFINING METRO'S GOVERNING VALUES

Value	Definition (Modified Based on March Ad Hoc Discussion)
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Functional Effectiveness	Governance should support stable oversight, institutional memory, and the Board's ability to make timely, informed, and high-quality decisions, particularly for multi-decade investments and programs.
Customer Experience	Governance should support decisions that prioritize customer experience, rider outcomes, system performance while recognizing the fully range of users, stakeholders and infrastructure overseen by Metro, including transit, active transportation, highways and Metro-owned assets.
Adaptability	Governance structures should be resilient and flexible in response to future changes in county or regional governance. Allow for future governance evolution as needs change

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BASELINING METRO'S CURRENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BASED ON GUIDING VALUES

Value	Assessment
Legal Integrity	✓ The Board's composition is established in state law and fully preserves Metro's legal structure and authority.
Intergovernmental Balance	✓ The current allocation reflects a deliberate balance across County, City of Los Angeles, and other cities within a regional governance model, with State representation.
Electoral Accountability	✓ All voting members are elected officials or appointed by them, maintaining direct accountability to voters.
Regional Equity	✓ **Geographic Balance** : Includes representation from all major regions of Los Angeles County (urban core, suburbs, and underserved areas) ✓ **Population Alignment** : Distribution of board seats roughly aligned with where people live across the County ◑ **Demographic Representation** : The diversity of riders and other stakeholders indirectly achieved through Board representation but not systemically ensured. ◑ **Transit Reliance** : Many communities with higher transit dependency (e.g., low-car ownership, lower-income populations) are meaningfully represented but there is no mechanism to ensure their proportional voice ◑ **Ridership Proportionality** : Areas that generate the highest Metro ridership have proportionate influence in board decision-making (alignment exists but it is not precise)

✓ *Board is currently fully meeting this value* ◑ *Board is currently partially meeting this value*

BASELINING METRO'S CURRENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BASED ON GUIDING VALUES

Value	Assessment
Transparency & Public Trust	✓ Governance operates under established public processes and policies ✓ Ad Hoc Review Committee established to ensure consideration of any governance changes are made transparently and with public input
Fiscal Stewardship	✓ Board members are directly accountable for public funding decisions and long-term capital investments.
Functional Effectiveness	✓ Members generally serve multiple terms, which has fostered stability and institutional memory. ✓ There is a consistent meeting cadence and briefings for Board members and their staff on topics of significance.

✓ *Board is currently fully meeting this value* ◑ *Board is currently partially meeting this value*

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BASELINING METRO'S CURRENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BASED ON GUIDING VALUES

Value	Assessment
Customer Experience	◑ **Customer Experience** : Customer feedback and perspectives (via formal advisory groups and informal feedback) inform Board decisions, but this input is not consistently required or highlighted in board actions ◑ **Rider Outcomes** : Ridership outcomes are often, but not always, directly measured and explicitly tied to decision-making ◑ **System Performance** : Regular reporting to the Board on operational performance supports oversight, but performance outcomes are not consistently tied to decision-making ✓ **Multimodal & Systemwide Impact** : The Board's jurisdictional and multimodal oversight structure supports decision-making that reflects Metro's full system, responsibilities and opportunities (transit, active transportation, highways, and assets)
Adaptability	✓ Structural flexibility is limited by statute, but current statuette has protocols that kick-in when there are changes. ✓ Governance can evolve through policy or legislation

✓ *Board is currently fully meeting this value* ◑ *Board is currently partially meeting this value*

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TAKE AWAYS

Metro's current governance model is generally in strong alignment with the proposed values set

Potential opportunities to more explicitly incorporate customer experience, rider outcomes and system performance in Board correspondence

The Board achieves regional equity in terms of geographic inclusion and population alignment and broadly reflects ridership patterns through representation aligned with the system's primary service areas.

NEXT STEPS

These draft values are presented for the Committee's consideration to ensure that future deliberations remain anchored in a clear, consistent, and mission -aligned framework.

Potential Board Structuring Alternatives can be analyzed based on the guiding values ultimately adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee and Metro Board