



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
COUNCILMEMBER

PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

*Communication from  
Council member Garcetti  
Submitted in Transportation  
Committee 7/22/09  
09-0600-548*

July 22, 2009

The Honorable Tom LaBonge, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Bill Rosendahl, Member  
The Honorable Richard Alarcón, Member  
The Honorable Bernard Parks, Member  
Los Angeles City Council c/o June Lagmay, City Clerk  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Letter from Council President Eric Garcetti regarding the expenditure of Measure R local return funds**

Dear Committee Chair Labonge and Honorable Members:

In November, 2008, the voters of Los Angeles County approved a ½ cent sales tax increase to go towards transportation improvements. The tax, referred to as Measure R, will be levied over the next 30 years, and is projected to generate between 30 and 40 million dollars. Of this amount, 15 percent will be given directly back to local jurisdictions in the form of local return dollars. Eligible expenditures from local return include signal synchronization, street resurfacing, pothole repair, traffic monitoring programs, bicycle programs, pedestrian programs, safer bus stops, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs, transit, and for local matching (3% local match is required for measure R projects). As the City decides how best to utilize local return dollars, it is of critical importance that we do so in a manner that is strategic, and that contemplates existing projects, short, and long term benefits, and leverages City investment. The development of criteria for eligible projects and the selection of projects for funding must be done so in a way that provides utmost transparency to the public, and takes into account feedback from the public.

Moving forward I ask that LADOT continue working with Council, the Mayor, and relevant departments to gather information that will allow a more informed decision to be made. The information should include, but not be limited to the following:

- Background information on funding recommendations, along with alternative funding streams that recommended projects and programs may be eligible for.
- Existing mandates that the departments are required to fulfill, specifically as it pertains to projects and programs that are eligible for funding through Measure R local return dollars.
- A current list of all of the projects currently in the pipeline that require a local match from the City.



- The department should include in future reports recommendations for increasing transparency and public input into this process.

With the passing of Measure R, the City has the responsibility to respond with projects and programs that are focused on moving people, and relieving traffic congestion. The City must do this through a process that is deliberate and strategic, as well as flexible. In doing this, we ensure that we are leveraging the public's investment to best move people, while addressing both environmental, and economic development concerns.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "E" and a long, horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District