



Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

City of Artesia
City of Bell
City of Bell Gardens
City of Bellflower
City of Cudahy
City of Downey
City of Glendale
City of Huntington Park
City of Maywood
City of Paramount
City of South Gate
City of Vernon
Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena
Airport Authority

Chair

Maria Davila
Council Member
City of South Gate

Vice Chairman

Zareh Sinanyan
Council Member
City of Glendale

Secretary

Cristian Markovich
Mayor
City of Cudahy

Treasurer

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Internal Auditor

Ali Sajjad Taj
Council Member
City of Artesia

Executive Director
Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel
Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio
Rene Bobadilla
City Manager Representative

August 6, 2015

Honorable Councilmember Herb J. Wesson Jr. (District 10)
President, Council President
City Council of the City of Los Angeles

Council File 15-0719 – City of Los Angeles Mobility Element 2035

Honorable Councilmember Wesson,

On behalf of the Eco-Rapid Transit Corridor Board of Directors, we have reviewed the proposed Mobility Element. We urge the Los Angeles City Council to amend the report to include a reference to the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) rail transit corridor in its long range transportation plans.

The Pacific Electric West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) transit corridor connects the Gateway Cities of South East Los Angeles County to Downtown Los Angeles. A project to restore passenger rail service to this historic rail right of way received a \$240 million allocation from the voters of Los Angeles County in Measure R. Initial studies by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) have shown that the approximately 20-mile corridor will carry 70,000 daily transit riders. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) is in the process of completing a Technical Refinement Study of the route alignment in anticipation of beginning an EIR/EIS in the coming year.

City of Los Angeles staff from the Planning and Transportation Departments have been participating in the Technical Refinement Study as part of METRO's unified work program with the City. Coordination with this project is critical to future plans for the Los Angeles Union Station Master Plan and to future development in the Alameda corridor, Arts District and Little Tokyo community as it connects to Downtown Los Angeles. Attachment 1 is a map of the proposed rail alignment.

The vision of Eco-Rapid Transit corridor is to create a Sustainable (Environment, Economy, and Equitable) transit corridor that would reduce the carbon footprint, improve air quality, reduce water usage, provide alternative sources of power and broadband access while attracting investment and creating living wage jobs throughout the corridor. Construction of the corridor would generate an estimated 52,000 construction jobs per year. All would be Living Wage jobs and the majority salaries would be greater than \$40,000 a year. According to a report and transit investment formula in the Huffington Post, the expected impact of the transit investment could be \$6.68 billion in economic growth.



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Inclusion of this transit corridor in the City's Mobility Element would support further planning of transit station access and development plans while preserving the opportunity to further mobility needs of this corridor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Kodama".

Michael R. Kodama, Executive Director
Eco-Rapid Transit

Cc: Councilmember Jose Huizar (District 1)
Chair Planning and Land Use Committee

Councilmember Mike Bonin (District 11)
Chair Transportation Committee

Chair Maria Davila (Eco-Rapid Transit)
Councilmember City of South Gate

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