

CALPIRG

Standing Up
To Powerful Interests

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April 20, 2010

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: 30/10 Initiative – SUPPORT

Dear Metro Board Members,

The California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) urges the board to endorse the 30/10 initiative. When voters passed Measure R, it was call to transform the region's transportation system as soon as is prudently possible. We have an opportunity to make a once-in-a-generation change and positively address L.A.'s many economic and environmental needs, and we, therefore, respectfully urge the board to endorse the 30/10 initiative.

The economic, environmental, and mobility gains make this campaign to great of an opportunity for the region to pass up.

The funding is there. The voters have agreed to tax themselves to fund these projects. With a local-federal partnership, we can build these projects ahead of schedule creating 165,990 jobs when the region really needs them. Beyond job creation, it will save the region \$3.7 billion with lower construction costs and not add to the federal deficit.

The initiative tackles environmental challenges and improves Angelinos' quality of life. Los Angeles residents already spend too much at the pump and suffer from poor air quality. The 30/10 campaign will cut emissions by over 570,000 pounds per year and cut gas consumption by over 10 million gallons a year. With our population growing rapidly, we need this initiative to avoid more smog and a higher dependence on expensive gasoline.

Finally, these projects solve multiple problems and build infrastructure that moves the region away from gridlock and towards a first-class, multimodal transit system. There is a temptation to embrace old approaches and instead fund highways which have demonstrated their propensity to compound problems we already have. The 30/10 transit projects help move us beyond this by cutting our time on the road by 208 million miles per year, effectively reducing congestion and pollution.

The 30/10 initiative is a voter-mandated, economic stimulus that provides multi-faceted benefits. We hope the board endorses the campaign so we can work together in securing a visionary local-federal partnership that can serve as a model to regions across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,
Erin Steva

Transportation Advocate
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