



Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

*Mailing Address: P.O. Box 32474 · Long Beach, CA 90832
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Metro
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles CA 90012
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Antonio Villaraigosa, Second Vice Chair
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Re: Support for Measure R "30/10" Initiative

Dear Metro Board members,

With historic passage of the MTA's Long Range Transportation Plan late last year, the County is well-positioned for significant advances in reducing traffic congestion in the region. Now, we urge your support for the next crucial step: **Accelerating use of part of the Measure R tax revenue (\$14B of the \$40B) into a 10-year timeframe under the "30/10" Initiative.**

As Los Angeles County employers and business leaders, traffic congestion is one of our most significant concerns. It contributes to high operational costs through lost productivity and challenges hiring and retaining employees because of commuting and reduced quality of life difficulties. The traffic-congestion costs for the Los Angeles area alone – including through lost productivity – have been estimated at \$9 billion or more. **This has a very real, significant and ongoing impact on our company's ability to operate in the region and provide high-quality jobs in Los Angeles County.**

Accelerating these 12 voter-approved major transit projects will dramatically stimulate the economy and generate over 120,000 new, and at least 2800 permanent, well-paid jobs that support families, which Los Angeles County desperately needs as its unemployment rate hovers in the double digits. It also gives employers some tangible light at the end of the tunnel, and renewed reason to continue to invest in this region.

Advancing the amount of clean, efficient, modern public transit work also will create a showcase program to reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gases that cause climate change and health risks. These projects will remove an estimated 500,000 pounds of dirty emissions from the Los Angeles air basin and have significant public health benefits. Getting this done in 10 years versus the current 30-year plan is vital for achieving a more sustainable and livable region.



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With this much at stake, it is vital that we in Los Angeles County are UNITED IN SUPPORT to ensure the Initiative maintains and expands the Federal support it already has gained - and that will be an extremely crucial key in helping accelerate the needed financing. As you know, the "30/10" Initiative would use bridge loans and federal loan guarantees to finance the majority of the projects. These loans would be secured by tax revenue that county voters pledged to the projects when they approved Measure R last year.

As in any advancement of this magnitude, details will need to be further developed to ensure absolute equity in this Initiative in a variety of areas. We are certain that the MTA will continue its consummate work in the public interest by ensuring transparency in developing these details for achieving the plan as outlined -- including consideration of partnerships patterned after those used in successful projects such as the Pasadena Gold Line and the Alameda Corridor -- to deliver the 12 transit projects on time and on budget.

We urge you to support the "30/10" Initiative and look forward to working with you to ease traffic congestion, and bring quality jobs, environmental improvements, and sustainability to the Los Angeles region.

Respectfully

Sandy Rojas

President & CEO,