

Congestion Mitigation Fee Pilot Study



BACKGROUND

As part of Metro's ongoing work plan of developing a Congestion Mitigation Fee Program in Los Angeles County, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has initiated a Pilot Study to demonstrate how such a program would be implemented.

The purpose of this Pilot Study is to test the feasibility of a potential congestion mitigation fee. Since the San Gabriel Valley represents 35 percent of the incorporated cities as well as a number of unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County, it would be beneficial for successful implementation to be demonstrated here to provide a good model for other jurisdictions to emulate. The SGVCOG and its member jurisdictions are initiating this Pilot Study with Metro to evaluate the projects, policies and technical requirements such a program would require. No decision on this proposed fee program will be made until all steps are completed. This step is the second part of a four step work plan being conducted over the next year and a half. Metro Board approval is required at the completion of each step.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO DATE?

The San Gabriel Valley COG's Ad-hoc Congestion Mitigation Fee Study Steering Committee – comprised of city managers, planning directors, public works directors, and the COG's Executive Director have been working closely with Metro staff to agree upon the premise of a Pilot Study and to develop an appropriate scope of work. As part of this effort, the following issues were identified as critical components of any fee program's success:

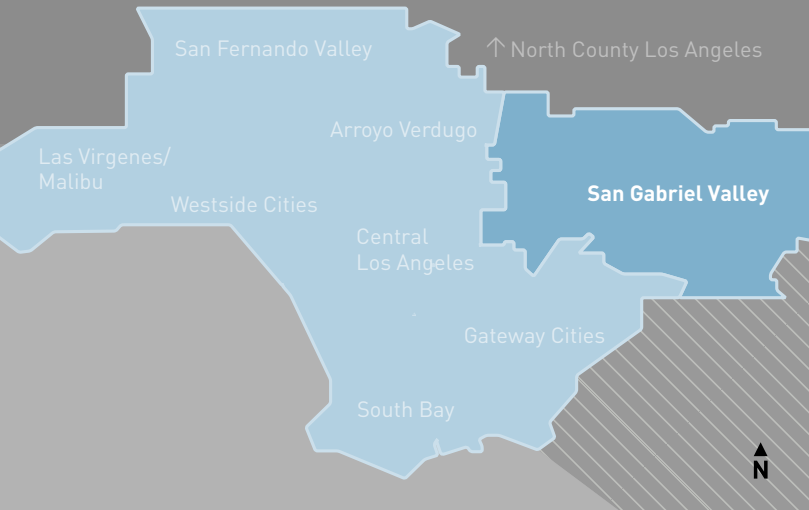
- > **Ensure local control and distribution of fees**
Local jurisdictions would adopt, collect and administer the fees with assurance that all funds collected in the San Gabriel Valley would be spent here.
- > **Protect other transportation funds**
Assurance that implementation of a fee program would not result in diversion of other transportation resources to other areas.
- > **Local identification of a project list**
Develop consensus on eligible projects and prioritization of projects within the San Gabriel Valley and/or sub areas that may choose to pool resources.
- > **Fit with local fee program**
Agree on how jurisdictions with existing fee programs would receive equal credit under a new fee program.



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The three main elements to the Pilot Study agreed upon between Metro and San Gabriel Valley COG are summarized as follows:

- 1) Identify project list and growth scenarios and the projects needed to mitigate the impacts of growth, including related impacts.
- 2) Develop boundaries, administrative structure and appropriate fee level.
- 3) Pilot Study will build on the principles of the Congestion Mitigation Fee Study Report adopted by the Metro Board in September 2008.

PROJECT TYPES ELIGIBLE UNDER A CONGESTION MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM

Four transportation project categories have been identified that would be eligible for funding under a Congestion Mitigation Fee program, examples include but are not limited to:

- > **Regional surface transportation improvements**
Examples include: arterial widening, intersection improvements, arterial system gap closures and grade separations.
- > **Transportation system management improvements**
Examples include: signal synchronization, bus speed improvements, intersection improvements, traffic control and monitoring, and Intelligent Transportation Systems.
- > **Transit improvements**
Examples include: bus and rail capital projects, stations and park-n-ride lots, and transit vehicle purchases.
- > **State highway improvements**
Examples include: interchanges, auxiliary lanes, carpool lanes, and other highway operational improvements.

TOOLS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST JURISDICTIONS

Cambridge Systematics is the technical consultant hired by Metro to lead the Congestion Mitigation Fee evaluation in Los Angeles County. As part of this effort, they have developed a fee revenue calculator that is based on trip generation rates and SCAG 2030 growth forecast numbers. Part of this effort involves working with jurisdictions to confirm the socioeconomic growth numbers used in the model with each jurisdiction. The fee revenue calculator tool, designed in Microsoft Excel, is currently available on a CD format. The fee revenue calculator is also scheduled to be made available on-line in the near future, which will enable jurisdiction staff to insert project profiles and determine corresponding fee levels needed to fund those projects.

The SGVCOG and Metro staff will provide one-on-one meetings to train jurisdiction staff on the use of the fee calculator and project profile templates for identifying local projects with a regional benefit.

Potential fee revenue generated by a congestion mitigation fee program in the San Gabriel Valley could range between \$277 million to \$2.2 billion over a 25-year period.

Contact Us

If you are interested in receiving additional information or would like to discuss the project further, please contact:

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