



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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DATE: July 28th, 2008

TO: San Gabriel Valley Cities Mayors and Council Members

FROM: John Fasana, San Gabriel Valley Representative on the Metro Board of Directors

RE: Approval of Metro's Proposed Sales Tax Measure ("Measure T")

As you may be aware, at last Thursday's meeting, Metro's Board of Directors voted 9-2 to authorize a Los Angeles County ballot measure proposing a half cent (1/2%) sales tax increase. This item will now be known as Measure T (See the attached article from the Pasadena-Star News for more information). This sales tax increase is intended to provide funding for new rail and highway improvement projects, as well as supplemental funding for ongoing maintenance and operations costs. It is expected that this sales tax increase could raise as much as \$40 billion over its thirty year lifetime. Prior to voting on this motion, Metro staff prepared a draft expenditure plan outlining the projects that would be funded under Measure T. In total, the San Gabriel Valley is slated to receive \$1.9 billion in funding for new rail projects and \$1.6 billion in funding for new highway projects under this plan. This represents an eighty-six percent (86%) return on the funds that are raised in the Valley.

At Thursday's Board meeting, both Supervisor Antonovich and I proposed amendments which would have ensured an equitable distribution of funding across all of the subregions in Los Angeles County. Furthermore, the motions proposed that the Metro Board periodically review the project list included in the expenditure plan and modify it as projects developed or changed. My motion was supported by the Councilmembers Lowenthal and Najarian, as well as Supervisors Antonovich and Molina (Supervisor Knabe was not present at this meeting). Unfortunately, both of these motions failed to pass, and were opposed by the city of Los Angeles members, councilmember O'Connor, and Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky. While I appreciate the profound transportation challenges faced by our Valley, I was unable to support the final motion to approve Measure T, as it does not represent a fair share of funding for the San Gabriel Valley.

I am attaching copies of the above mentioned amendments, as well as a separate motion that would have advanced \$80 million in local funding for the Gold Line in hopes of leveraging federal funding for the project. This motion received received five votes in support (Antonovich, Fasana, Lowenthal, Molina, and Najarian), with seven required to pass.

The funding targets in the approved measure over the 30 year period are \$400 million for ACE, \$735 million for the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension, \$1,271 million for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, and \$780 million for the I-710 north gap closure tunnel. Some of these projects ultimately may not be built, or may not enter into the San Gabriel Valley. Because my amendments were not adopted, the actual receipt of these funds into our valley is not guaranteed.

On a separate note, the Metro Board approved an amendment to the congestion pricing MOU with the USDOT to move the initial one-year pilot from the 210 and 10 freeways to the 110 and 10 freeways.

I would like to express my appreciation for your support throughout these important deliberations. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at (626) 252-2742 or fasana.citycouncil@charter.net.

Cc: City Managers' TAC
Planning Directors' TAC
Public Works' TAC
San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus
San Gabriel Valley Congressional Caucus