



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

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**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 24, 2007**

SUBJECT: METRO'S GUIDING SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file report on the proposed Guiding Sustainability Principles developed by Metro staff.

ISSUE

In September 2007, Metro held the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee. In that meeting, staff suggested that the June 2007 Energy and Sustainability Policy should be revised to incorporate an operational definition of sustainability for Metro as a corporation and as a regional transportation authority. Staff suggested a set of Guiding Sustainability Principles to focus Metro's current and future efforts in this area. Staff conducted research and drafted a proposed set of Guiding Sustainability Principles for discussion with the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee. The draft Guiding Sustainability Principles are included as Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

Staff researched the numerous publications and institutional practices of organizations that have already adopted sustainable mobility principles. These include the United Nations, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, the Center for Sustainable Transport and various other agencies in the United States and overseas.

Common among their principles are the three "E's" of sustainability: Equity, Economy, and Environment. These are points of reference from which other groups have drawn upon to develop an operational definition of sustainable transportation. Based on available information obtained during the research, staff developed the following statements that describe sustainable transportation:

- Allows the basic access needs and development of individuals, companies and societies to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and ecosystem health;

- Promotes equity within and between generations;
- Is affordable, operates efficiently, offers choice of transport mode, and supports a vibrant economy, and regional development;
- Limits emissions and waste within the planet's ability to absorb them, uses renewable resources at or below their rates of generation;
- Uses non-renewable resources at or below the rates of development of renewable substitutes and minimizes the use of land and the generation of noise.

Staff's research has also resulted in a determination that other organization's guiding principles fall under the following common themes:

1. Accessibility for all people, places and services;
2. Social and Intergenerational Equity;
3. Land-Use and Transportation Integration;
4. Eco-system & Community sensitive design;
5. Reduce, Re-use, Recycle mantra;
6. Public Safety and awareness;
7. Education and Outreach;
8. Interdepartmental and Interagency cooperation; and
9. Full Cost Benefit Analysis.

To ensure success, Metro needs to develop its own sustainability principles specifically adapted to our operational and corporate mission and vision. Staff used the existing "Go Metro" slogan as the framework to develop a draft of seven key Guiding Sustainability Principles specific to Metro. Staff intends to use these draft principles as a focal point of discussion and reference with the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee during the October 2007 briefing.

Staff decided to use the "Go Metro" slogan for this effort as it has been well received by the public and is easily identifiable with our agency.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will note all comments on the draft Guiding Sustainability Principles during the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee briefing. Based on that information, Staff will develop a revision of the existing Energy and Sustainability Policy to incorporate the comments on the Guiding Sustainability Principles. The revised policy will then be forwarded to the Board for review and approval.

ATTACHMENT

A. Draft Guiding Sustainability Principles

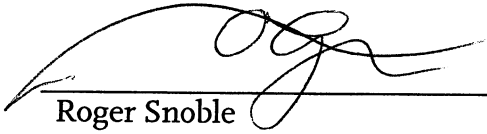
Prepared by: Cris Liban, Manager of Environmental Compliance and Services
 Timothy Lindholm, Director of Capital Projects, Facilities-Operations
 Timothy Papandreu, Transportation Planning Manager IV



Carolyn Flowers
Chief Operations Officer



K. N. Murthy
Deputy Chief Capital Management Officer



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT A

GO METRO Guiding Sustainability Principles (Draft)

GROW an accessible multi-modal transportation system for all users

Metro's core belief is that all people are equal and entitled to reasonable access to places of employment, business, culture, recreation, goods and services and other destinations in our region and beyond.

OFFER an equitable multi-modal transportation system for all users

Metro's decisions promote social and inter-generational equity by meeting the transportation-related needs of all people and the movement of goods in an environmentally sound way.

MAKE our multi-modal transportation system a safe, community asset

Metro's decisions strive to protect the safety of its employees and its customers while enhancing the quality of life and livability of our communities with thoughtfully designed and safe transportation services and infrastructure.

ENSURE a more integrated multi-modal transportation and land-use system

Metro's decisions encourage our land-use and transportation partners to ensure efficient use of land, energy and natural resources; promote land-use and infrastructural design decisions that prioritize walking, bicycling, car-sharing and transit; and create an environment that results in high-quality public spaces.

TREAD lightly on our natural eco-systems and in our diverse communities

Metro's decisions ensure the preservation of vital environmental habitats and respect the diverse urban fabric of communities with design standards that protect biodiversity and promote livable communities.

REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE resources to minimize our environmental impact footprint

Metro's decisions in conjunction with its land-use and transportation partners reduce emissions, noise, energy consumption, hazardous chemicals, material waste, and other elements that threaten human health and the environment.

OUTREACH to our partners to leverage a more sustainable transportation system

Metro leverages its partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, and community and business stakeholders to ensure that decisions reflect the full social, economic, environmental, and security needs, benefits and life-cycle costs of our multi-modal transportation system.