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## Metro at 'Quality-of-Life Crossroads,' Says New Board Chair Gloria Molina

- Metro will continue to build the transit network, Molina says

By KIM UPTON

(June 30, 2006) Los Angeles is at a "quality-of-life crossroads, facing a multitude of challenges," says Supervisor Gloria Molina, who will chair Metro's Board of Directors during FY 2007.



Supervisor Gloria Molina will chair Metro's Board in FY 2007.

Molina assumes the Board chair, July 1, succeeding Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who is completing his one-year term. Director Pam O'Connor, a Santa Monica City Council member, is the Board's new 1st vice chair, while Villaraigosa will be 2nd vice chair.

"Los Angeles is at a quality-of-life crossroads, facing a multitude of challenges, including too much traffic and gas prices that are putting a serious strain on the budgets of all people – working families in particular," says Molina.

As the Board's new chair, the county supervisor says she will "make sure our growing network of trains and buses and the services that help make our freeways and roads less congested move aggressively forward."

### 'Continue to build'

"We will continue to build this network through projects like the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension...and through creative ideas like the Metro Rapid network...so that the people who depend on mass transit receive service that just keeps getting better," says Molina. "That will be my mission."

Molina is no stranger to firsts. She was the first Latina to be elected to the California State Legislature, the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

She was elected to the State Assembly in 1982, to the Los Angeles City Council in 1987 and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1991. She joined the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board in 1993.

Prior to being elected to public office, Molina served in the Carter White House as a Deputy for Presidential Personnel. After leaving the White House, she served in San Francisco as a Deputy Director for the Department of Health and Human Services. Currently she serves on the board of directors of the Mexican American Legal Defense and

Educational Fund (MALDEF).

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