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## Pam O'Connor Will Lead Metro Board in FY 2008

- Civic leader wants to encourage people to rideshare, take public transit



Board Chair Pam O'Connor took up her new duties, July 1.

By RICK JAGER

(July 3, 2007) Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor will chair the Board of Directors during FY 2008. She succeeds Supervisor Gloria Molina who completed her term as chair on June 30.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will be first vice-chair and Supervisor Don Knabe was elected second vice-chair during the Board's June meeting.

"In the coming year, Los Angeles County faces many challenges as we strive to improve mobility for the region through implementation of various transportation improvement programs," said O'Connor. "I look forward to leading Metro on a course that encourages people to rideshare with carpools and vanpools or take public transit whenever possible."

O'Connor said she will continue the Board's work of "improving our vast network of buses and trains and encouraging transit-oriented developments around transit hubs to bring people closer to their place of employment."

She said her special focus will be on Metro's environmental sustainability initiatives to address climate change.

### Santa Monica Council Member

O'Connor, a member of the Santa Monica City Council since 1994, has led efforts to develop policies and partnerships that create and enhance community livability, economic vitality and environmental sustainability.

She has served on Metro's Board of Directors since 2001, representing the Westside and South Bay cities whose combined population approaches 1 million. She also represents the City of Santa Monica on the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority board.

O'Connor works on policy issues with the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities, the Local Government Commission and the American Public Transportation Association. Since 1997, she has been a member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and is Chair of its Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

As a professional planning consultant, O'Connor specializes in historic

preservation and has worked on significant historic building projects throughout Southern California. She has served as the Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Northridge earthquake recovery partnership program, as a planner for the City of Pasadena and as a research associate for the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from Southern Illinois University and holds masters' degrees in planning and in technology management from Eastern Michigan University. She is an enthusiastic urban explorer, a strong advocate for public transit and a regular user of public transportation.