

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Metro Chair Pam O'Connor addressed the Los Angeles County Transportation Funding Collaborative conference on January 10. The conference explored funding alternatives for Los Angeles County's transportation needs. Photo by Dave Sotero.

Funding Collaborative Explores Alternative Funding for LA County Transportation

By Jody Feerst Litvak

(Jan. 16, 2008) Over 300 people attended a January 10 conference in Los Angeles to explore funding alternatives and develop an action plan to increase funding for Los Angeles County's transportation needs.

The "It's Time to Move LA!" conference was organized by the newly formed Los Angeles County Transportation Funding Collaborative (LACTFC). Metro was a partner in the conference, which also included business, labor, health, environmental, academic and community groups.

Denny Zane, LACTFC Executive Director, kicked-off the day

pointing out that only \$4 billion in uncommitted transportation funds have been identified over the next 25 years, yet Los Angeles needs an additional \$60 billion in capital and operating funds to meet its transportation needs. "We cannot have a first class economy and community and a third class transportation system," Zane said.

Following the conference, Metro staff members released a Board report stating that the \$4 billion in uncommitted transportation funds is no longer available, due to decreased funding and increased costs.

Metro Chair Pam O'Connor addressed the conference, stressing the need for integrated planning. Other Metro Board members who participated in conference sessions included Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Los Angeles County Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Zev Yaroslavsky, Duarte Councilman John Fasana, and Directors David Fleming and Richard Katz. Metro Director and Long Beach Councilwoman Bonnie Lowenthal also attended.

Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, also addressed the group. She spoke about the importance of transportation for labor, noting the jobs created for those who build, operate and maintain transportation systems. She also noted the role transportation plays in the quality of life for all workers in Los Angeles. Representatives from numerous labor unions attended the event, including each of the unions that represent Metro employees.

Some of the discussion focused on funding from Sacramento and Washington, D.C., but most speakers acknowledged the need to generate funds locally. Several speakers stated that the state budget crisis makes it unlikely that Sacramento will provide much funding in the near future, and short-term solutions from the federal government are also unlikely. Consequently, most of the discussion focused on new revenue sources that can be generated, retained and used locally.

Metro CEO Roger Snoble did not address the conference but was recognized for bolstering public confidence in Metro. Mr. Zane said that Metro's credibility is a critical component of any effort to secure new transportation funding for Los Angeles. Metro was a partner in the conference.

The concepts discussed at the conference are being evaluated for the amount of money each would generate, the amount of time each would take to implement, administrative changes required, and political obstacles. LACTFC organizers will likely be moving forward with a variety of proposals in the near future.

These include a half-cent sales tax increase, congestion reduction pricing, carbon fees, infrastructure financing districts, vehicle license fees, benefit assessment districts and more. At the direction of the Metro Board, staff members are working to identify new opportunities to generate revenue and reduce cost.

Zane indicated that a primary goal of the conference was to stimulate the formation of transportation working groups within key constituencies -- such as business, labor and environmental groups -- and to facilitate dialogue between them.