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At a news conference assembled in response to the passage of Measure R, Metro Board Chair Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa thanked voters and elected officials who enabled the passage of Measure R, the half-cent sales tax proposal to build public transportation projects across Los Angeles County. The officials staged the news conference at the Metro Rail Wilshire/Western Station. *Photo by Ned Racine*

Metro Board Members Thank Voters for Approving Measure R

- Villaraigosa, Yaroslavsky commit to promises made to reduce congestion and gridlock
- [Statement](#): CEO Roger Snoble's Statement to Employees on Measure 'R' Approval by County Voters
- [VIDEO](#): Supervisor Yaroslavsky praises Metro for hard work

By NED RACINE, Editor

Broad smiles brightened an already sunny post-election morning as Metro Board Chair Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa thanked voters and elected officials who enabled the passage of Measure R, the half-cent sales tax proposal to build public transportation projects across Los Angeles County.

With 100 percent of precincts reporting, [Measure R](#) was approved by voters by a margin of 67.4 percent to 32.6 percent (some mailed-in ballots are still being counted). Because it increases Los Angeles County sales tax, the measure needed a two-thirds supermajority to pass.

^CLICK 'PLAY' TO VIEW ADJUST 'SLIDER' FOR SOUND^

Video: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky praises Metro in remarks on the passage of Measure R by Los Angeles County voters.

"We voted to end gridlock in Los Angeles; we voted to begin the comprehensive and smart investments that we need in this county to address the congestion, the gridlock, the poor air quality in this region," said Villaraigosa at a press event near the entrance to the Wilshire/Western Metro Red Line station.

Measure R is expected to provide the local resources to finance new transportation projects and accelerate those already in the pipeline. Over 30 years, it is projected to generate \$40 billion for traffic congestion relief projects including bus and rail expansion, street and highway improvements, commuter rail upgrades and other transportation projects and programs.

In a [statement](#) to Metro employees this morning, CEO Roger Snoble wrote "This is great news for Metro and in light of its passage, we will be going back to the Board in January with an updated financial plan that will address multiple transportation improvement projects that will be funded through this important half-cent sales tax."

Joined by Metro Board members Zev Yaroslavsky, Richard Katz and Doug Failing, as well as Assemblyman Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles), who authored legislation paving the way for the sales tax measure, and members of the Los Angeles City Council, Villaraigosa noted that Los Angeles County drivers spend approximately two workweeks each year sitting in traffic.

Villaraigosa spoke about Measure R allowing the county to pursue the Subway to the Sea along Wilshire Blvd., improving bus service, extending the Expo Line, extending the Metro Gold Line farther into the San Gabriel Valley and synchronizing traffic lights in the City of Los Angeles and across the county.

"This is the most important thing that we can do locally for the people of Los Angeles County," said Yaroslavsky. "They have given us their votes, they have given us their confidence, and we intend to deliver on their expectations, beginning immediately."

Several speakers emphasized the importance of the projects funded by Measure R creating jobs within the county during difficult economic times.

Yaroslavsky predicted that when voting numbers are analyzed, every precinct in the county will have voted for Measure R because of the county's universal congestion and gridlock. "It's not only uneconomical and inefficient, it's a very serious diminution of the quality of life."

"I think this is a vote of confidence in Metro," Yaroslavsky added. "People know this is an agency that delivers."

