



Metro News Pressroom

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to Chair Metro Board

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will be sworn in as chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors in July. Villaraigosa will replace outgoing Board chair and Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts and hold the position until June 30, 2006.

"It's a challenging time at Metro but also an ideal time to challenge Metro to raise its level of performance," said Villaraigosa. "I have an ambitious transportation agenda that includes a first-class bus system, an expanded rail system and less congested roadways to be implemented over the next decade-and-a-half."

"It will take all the discipline and energy we can muster to realize both this agency's short-term agenda and its long-term vision, but we have to do it if we're to preserve and enhance mobility in Los Angeles," he added.

Villaraigosa was elected to the state Assembly in 1994 and was chosen Speaker of the Assembly by that body's membership in 1998. Most recently he served as Los Angeles City Councilmember for the 14th District and chaired the Council's transportation committee.

In August 2003 Villaraigosa was appointed to the Board of Directors by former Mayor James Hahn, a position he held until September 2004. He also served on the board of the former Southern California Rapid Transit District, one of Metro's two predecessor agencies, between July 1991 and June 1993 and as a Board alternate between July 1993 and June 1994.

The 13-member Board of Directors is comprised of the five Los Angeles County Supervisors, four members appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee, and the Mayor of Los Angeles and three mayoral appointees. The position of Board Chair rotates between the three groups.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is the second largest public transportation agency in the United States and provides more than 85 percent of all public transit services in LA County. It operates the Metro Bus System, which consists of more than 2,000 peak hour buses, which serve a 1,433 square mile area. Metro also operates the 73.1-mile Metro Rail System, which includes the Metro Red

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Line subway and the Metro Blue, Metro Green and Metro Gold light rail lines.

As the region's primary transportation planner and programmer, Metro also funds such programs as paratransit services, bikeways, street and freeway improvements and the Metro Freeway Service Patrol, which aids stranded highway motorists free of charge.

Editor's note: a high resolution photo of Antonio Villaraigosa is available upon request.

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