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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor named 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors**



Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor

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Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor has assumed duties as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors. A trained and practicing planner and long-time patron of public transportation, O'Connor is a knowledgeable and articulate advocate for public transit and for strategic regional transportation policies.

In recognition of her record of effective public service, Mayor O'Connor was recently named "Distinguished Elected Official of the Year" by the American Planning Association's Los Angeles Section. The award recognizes O'Connor for bringing "enthusiasm, creativity and fresh insight into issues at the local and regional government level" and for "her tireless commitment and effort to promote planning issues focused particularly in

the areas of historic preservation, environmental sustainability, smart growth principles and public transportation."

Mayor O'Connor has represented the South Bay and Westside Cities on the MTA Board since 2001. In her new role as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, she will join newly installed Board Chairman, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, on the Executive Management and Audit Committee and will also sit on the Construction Committee. At a time when federal transportation funding is at a premium and the Federal consent decree on Metro Bus service is nearing its sunset, the Board's work in the coming year is sure to be busy and demanding. Mayor O'Connor is also a member of the newly organized Exposition Light Rail Construction Authority Board.

Mayor O'Connor is well prepared for the challenges. Her 15-year record of public service includes positions in Santa Monica on the Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission, and a continuous seat on the City Council since 1994, including serving 3 terms as Mayor.

Within broader arenas of public affairs, Mayor O'Connor serves on the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) Regional Council and is currently chair of their Regional Comprehensive Plan Committee. She also serves on the Board of the Local Government Commission, and on policy committees of the National League of Cities and League of California Cities. She is an active participant of ICLEI

Cities for Sustainability and the Westside Urban Forum.

"The next year promises to be very challenging, not only in relation to transportation issues, but also with respect to public safety, as we were rudely reminded by the horrific terrorist attacks in London," said O'Connor. "But we are up to these challenges and more, and I look forward to addressing them head-on under what promises to be energetic and visionary leadership from Chairman Villaraigosa."

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