

June 28, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina Named Chair of The Metropolitan Transportation Authority

- Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina will become Chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors July 1. She replaces Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who will complete his one-year term on that date.

"Los Angeles is at a quality-of-life crossroads, facing a multitude of challenges, including too much traffic and gas prices that are putting a serious strain on the budgets of all people -- working families in particular," Molina said.

"As chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, I will make sure our growing network of trains and buses and the services that help make our freeways and roads less congested move aggressively forward. We will continue to build this network through projects like the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, which is currently under construction, and through creative ideas like the Metro Rapid network of faster buses, so that the people who depend on mass transit receive service that just keeps getting better. That will be my mission."



County Supervisor Gloria Molina

Supervisor Molina is no stranger to firsts. She is the first Latina in history to be elected to the California State Legislature, the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. She was elected to the State Assembly in 1982, to the Los Angeles City Council in 1987 and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1991. She joined the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board in 1993.

Prior to being elected to public office, Supervisor Molina served in the Carter White House as a Deputy for Presidential Personnel. After leaving the White House, she served in San Francisco as a Deputy Director for the Department of Health and Human Services. Currently she serves on the board of directors of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

The 13-member Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors is comprised of the five Los Angeles County Supervisors, four members appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee, the Mayor of Los Angeles and three mayoral appointees. The position of Board Chair rotates between the three groups. When Supervisor Molina takes over as Board Chair, Mayor Villaraigosa will become Second Vice Chair. Current Second Vice Chair, Board member and Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor, will then become First Vice Chair.

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 2,200 peak-hour buses, serving 1,433 square miles. Metro also operates the 73.1-mile Metro Rail system, which includes the Metro Red Line subway and the Metro Blue, Green and Gold light-rail lines. The Metro Orange Line, a 14-mile long dedicated busway in the San Fernando Valley, opened in October, 2005.

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 Gloria Molina is available upon request. Contact Kim Upton (213) 922-2703 or Gayle Anderson (213) 922-2702.

