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Metro Will Accept Online Applications for Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will begin accepting online applications today for the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee that will ensure an enhanced level of accountability for expenditures of sales tax revenues generated by the ballot measure. The application period will extend from Jan. 25 to March 28 on Metro's website, metro.net.

"The people of L.A. County spoke with a resounding voice by approving Measure M, the Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan, with more than 71 percent of the vote. Now we begin the work of implementing Measure M," said Metro Board Chair John Fasana. "An essential part of the process is to organize the seven-member Oversight Committee that will monitor Measure M. This is an important position that requires expertise and intelligence and we look forward to receiving applications from leaders in their fields."

As outlined by the Measure M ordinance, the committee will feature a diversity of disciplines among its members, with experts in public finance and budget, transit operations and labor, construction, business and architecture or engineering, in addition to the legal expertise brought by a retired judge. The committee will review all Measure M related audits and hold an annual public hearing to report on the results of the audits, then prepare and share an annual report of the audits and public comments with the Metro Board of Directors.

The committee also will review all proposed debt financing and any proposed amendments to the ordinance, including the expenditure plan, and make a finding as to whether the proposed amendments further the purpose of the ordinance. The committee will review the comprehensive program assessment of the expenditure plan every five years or every ten years in accordance with the ordinance and make findings and/or provide recommendations for improving the program. "As we grow our transportation system across the county, we will do so in a transparent, fiscally responsible manner, and this committee will help ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent effectively and efficiently," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "It is our hope that we will attract a field of candidates that not only represents the diversity of various disciplines, but also the diversity of Los Angeles."

Those interested in applying should visit Metro's website at metro.net for information and criteria and follow the application process. The Metro Board is scheduled to formally approve the committee in June.

About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.3 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County. Stay informed by following Metro on The Source and El Pasajero at metro.net, facebook.com/losangelesmetro, twitter.com/metrolosangeles and twitter.com/metroLAalerts and instagram.com/metrolosangeles.

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