



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro News

September 14, 2017

Dave Sotero/Joni Goheen
Metro Media Relations
213.922.3007/213.922.2700

metro.net/press/pressroom
mediarelations@metro.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro to Continue Local Hire Program on Locally Funded Projects

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) plans to keep its Local Hire Initiative for locally funded transportation projects despite the federal government's withdrawal of Local Hire rules for federally funded projects.

The Trump Administration indicated it plans to withdraw local hire reforms made during the Obama Administration that allowed transportation agencies like Metro to employ geographic-based hiring preferences for projects utilizing federal funds.

Prior to these reforms, federal procurement regulations did not permit agencies to require bidders to establish local hiring programs or to take such programs and local hiring directly into account in the bid evaluation process. The prohibition was originally established years ago when the federal government often funded over 80 percent of transportation projects.

Today, however, more than 80 percent of Metro's budget for operations and capital projects are funded through taxes from L.A. County residents, which provides the rationale for hiring local workers who actually pay the taxes to build local projects.

"We created Metro's Local Hire Program to make sure that investments in transportation bring opportunities for the community members where projects are being built," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti. "This helps us multiply the benefits of transportation dollars to strengthen the local economy and give more people a chance to build new careers."

Metro projects such as the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor contains 96 percent local funding, making it and other similarly funded projects a strong candidate for Metro's Local Hire Program moving forward.

Earlier this year, then-U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that the Local Hire Pilot Program would be extended five years to 2022. Under this program, Metro required 40 percent of its workers to come from low-income areas within five miles of a project. The agency also required that 10 percent of construction employees on projects be drawn from disadvantaged workers. Metro already applied the program to a host of transportation projects that contain some federal funding, including Metro's Southwest Rail Yard, the Metro Purple Line Extension Section 2 and several rail car procurement contracts.

“Metro has been a national leader in helping the federal government reform antiquated rules that blocked the hiring of local workers,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “We want to assure the public that we are doing everything within our power to rectify this situation, because it’s the right thing to do for our local construction community and economy.”

The rule change would likely affect future Metro projects. Metro anticipates at least nine other projects would be negatively affected, including the Airport Metro Connector, Section 3 of the Purple Line Extension, and the Foothill Extension Phase 2B to Claremont, among others. These projects together represent more than a \$12-billion investment in transportation infrastructure.

About Metro

Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that is really three companies in one: a major operator that transports about 1.4 million boarding passengers on an average weekday on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines, a major construction agency that oversees many bus, rail, highway and other mobility related building projects, and the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County. Overseeing one of the largest public works programs in America, Metro is changing the urban landscape of the Los Angeles region. Dozens of transit, highway and other mobility projects largely funded by Measure R are under construction or in the planning stages. These include five new rail lines, enhanced bus operations, and numerous highway and local projects.

Stay informed by following Metro on The Source and El Pasajero at metro.net, [facebook.com/losangelesmetro](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesmetro), twitter.com/metrolosangeles and twitter.com/metroLAalerts and [instagram.com/metrolosangeles](https://www.instagram.com/metrolosangeles).

(Metro-122)

###