



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Board Approves Key Recommendations for Metro’s Bold “Re-Imagining of L.A. County” Transportation Initiative

In a significant vote to relieve traffic congestion and combat climate change, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors today voted to further explore congestion pricing and new mobility fees for ride share companies. Both are strategies in Metro’s “Re-Imagining of Los Angeles County: Mobility, Equity and the Environment” plan.

The Board also voted to continue work on the Twenty-Eight by ’28 Initiative, which seeks ways to accelerate the delivery of 28 major projects before the Olympic and Paralympic Games arrive in the Los Angeles area in 2028. Metro staff will provide updates to the Board on acceleration efforts to deliver Twenty-Eight by ’28 later this year.

One of the “Re-Imagining L.A. County” initiatives approved for further study includes congestion pricing, which uses tolls to more effectively manage traffic flow, especially during peak periods. Metro will begin a 12- to 24-month congestion pricing feasibility study to evaluate potential models and locations to test the concept.

The three models to be studied are: a cordon model, where anyone traveling into a designated zone is charged a fee; a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) model, where charges are based on the number of vehicle miles traveled within congested areas, and; a corridor model, where anyone traveling within a congested corridor is charged based on number of vehicle miles traveled within that corridor.

Upon completion of the feasibility study, the Metro Board will consider a pilot program to test the concept.

A critical component of the feasibility study is an Equity Strategy that will look at ways that congestion pricing can improve equity for vulnerable populations. The study will develop a plan for transit service improvements to provide faster and more reliable trips as an alternative to driving. In addition, it will investigate potential toll and fare discounts for low-income users.

Metro will also study the idea of levying fees on new mobility devices like electric scooters and ride share companies like Uber and Lyft that profit from the use of public roadways and whose vehicles contribute to congestion.

“It’s easy for us to say ‘Fix traffic!’ but it’s going to take serious imagination and out-of-the-box thinking to actually do it,” said LA County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Sheila Kuehl. “We are ready explore a whole panoply of ideas that can help reduce traffic, encourage shared trips, and get more people on public transit.”

The Re-Imagining plan was a result of an original effort to identify feasible ways to expedite the delivery of 28 projects for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028. While working on that effort, Metro staff discovered broader strategies that would benefit the region before and for many decades after the Olympics and Paralympic games.

“By reinventing Los Angeles County through the lens of better mobility, equity and the environment, we have the potential to greatly reduce congestion, combat climate change by lowering our carbon footprint and significantly increase our transit frequency and capacity,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “We are now thinking boldly to ensure our region can adequately meet its growing transportation demands in the decades to come.”

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.

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