



Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

March 13, 2020

Mr. Lenny Mendonca, Chair
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814
info@hsr.ca.gov

Dear Chairman Mendonca:

As the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) considers its 2020 Business Plan, the Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors unanimously voted to ask that CHSRA work with our state representatives to consider interim rail system improvements in Southern California and the Bay Area along the proposed high-speed rail line to create short-term and immediate benefits while continuing to pursue the long-term vision of the system.

Eco-Rapid Transit is a Joint Powers Authority with 11 members (10 cities and the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority (Hollywood Burbank Airport) who work together to improve transportation and connectivity through our cities. The corridor is 40 miles long linking Hollywood Burbank Airport to Downtown Los Angeles and to the city of Artesia. Attached is a map showing our corridor. It supports the creation of more jobs and connects over 4 million underserved residents to the regional transportation system.

We support recent proposals by Assembly Speaker Rendon and Assembly member Friedman to fund interim rail system improvements that will create frequent, 125 mile per hour (with the potential to eventually travel over 180 miles per hour) at the State's major population centers. Along our corridor, this will create express rail service from Hollywood Burbank Airport to Downtown Union Station with potential service in southeast Los Angeles on its way to Anaheim's ARTIC High Speed Rail station by 2024.

It is essential to our region and economy that these improvements which improve existing rail capacity and construct the Union Station run-through tracks be implemented as soon as possible. For these reasons, the Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors has taken a strong position to recommend that CHSRA work closely with Speaker Rendon and Assembly member Friedman to consider a more comprehensive approach to implement a high speed rail project that includes rail transit system improvements in Southern California and the Bay Area while continuing high speed rail construction in Central California. This maximizes future mobility and connections for California while also meeting the needs of a corridor, such as ours, consisting of a significant under-served population lacking rapid transportation options.

City of Artesia
City of Bell
City of Bell Gardens
City of Cudahy
City of Downey
City of Glendale
City of Huntington Park
City of Maywood
City of Paramount
City of South Gate
Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena
Airport Authority

Karina Macias
Mayor
City of Huntington Park

Vice-Chair

All Sajjad Taj
Mayor
City of Artesia

Sean Ashton
Council member
City of Downey

Treasurer

Vrej Agajanian
Council Member
City of Glendale

Internal Auditor

Jose R. Gonzalez
Mayor
City of Cudahy

Executive Director
Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel
Teresa L. Highsmith

William Rawlings
City Manager Representative



Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

City of Artesia
City of Bell
City of Bell Gardens
City of Cudahy
City of Downey
City of Glendale
City of Huntington Park
City of Maywood
City of Paramount
City of South Gate
Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena
Airport Authority

Chair

Karina Macias
Mayor
City of Huntington Park

Vice-Chair

All Saned Taj
Mayor
City of Artesia

Secretary

Sean Ashton
Council member
City of Downey

Vrej Agajanian
Council Member
City of Glendale

Internal Auditor

Jose R. Gonzalez
Mayor
City of Cudahy

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings
City Manager Representative

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we appreciate your efforts and look forward to working with the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Kodama".

Michael R. Kodama
Executive Director

Cc: California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 63rd Assembly District
California State Assembly Member Laura Friedman, 43rd Assembly District