



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
Councilmember
City of Huntington Park

Vice-Chair

Ali Sajjad Taj
Mayor
City of Artesia

Secretary

Sean Ashton
Councilmember
City of Downey

Treasurer

Vrej Agajanian
Mayor
City of Glendale

Internal Auditor

Jose R. Gonzalez
Vice-Mayor
City of Cudahy

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings
City Manager Representative

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

July 30, 2020

Huntington Park Councilmember Karina Macias Elected as Chair of Eco-Rapid Transit. Eco-Rapid Transit Board Officers also selected for Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Internal Auditor Slots

Paramount, California - The Eco-Rapid Transit Board has elected its officers who will lead the Authority in the upcoming year. The next Board Meeting is on Wednesday August 12th at 6:30 p.m.

On July 8, 2020, Huntington Park Councilmember Karina Macias was again elected as the Eco-Rapid Transit Board Chair. The Board also elected City of Artesia Mayor Ali Taj as Vice-Chair, City of Downey Councilmember Sean Ashton as Board Secretary, City of Glendale Mayor Vrej Agajanian as Treasurer and City of Cudahy Vice-Mayor Jose Gonzalez as Internal Auditor.

Eco-Rapid Transit Chair and Huntington Park Councilmember Karina Macias was elected to the Huntington Park City Council in March 2013 and re-elected to a second term in March 2017. In 2015-2016, she served as the youngest Mayor in the history of the City of Huntington Park. In 2019-2020, she was again elected by her peers to serve as Mayor. Now serving her second year as Chair of Eco-Rapid Transit, Chair Macias grew up in Huntington Park. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Psychology with a minor in International Studies from Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in International Studies from Chapman University.

Chair Macias stated, "I am thankful to the board members for their continued support and their trust to lead for another year. As we move closer to see the West Santa Ana Branch become a reality in our Southeast Cities, I look forward to continuing to work with all our partners, to include Metro, so that we may provide this project to our communities that are overdue to see transportation equity."

Eco-Rapid Transit, also known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit corridor that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. Eco-Rapid Transit is committed to working with local, regional, state and federal agencies to connect our communities, create jobs and generate economic opportunities along the entire corridor from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles and from Downtown Los Angeles to Hollywood Burbank Airport. The proposed West Santa Ana Branch project (Artesia to Union Station) is undergoing its Environmental Review. Studies are underway to improve rail transit service from Downtown Los Angeles to Hollywood Burbank Airport. We are an economic and community development project all connected together by a train.

For more information, about Eco-Rapid Transit, please visit www.eco-rapid.org

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