

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

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Ex-Officio

William Rawlings
City Manager Representative

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director
DATE: May 13, 2020
SUBJECT: **UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CORONA VIRUS, E-PLANNING AND TELECOMMUTING AND POTENTIAL LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECOVERY ISSUES**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

ISSUE

The Corona Virus is impacting all of our members, with many people now working from home. Eco-Rapid Transit is aware that much of this was implemented in an extremely short period of time and is therefore providing a summary regarding e-planning, telecommuting and how it relates to potential long-term economic development and recovery issues along our corridor.

BACKGROUND

Eco-Rapid Transit staff are well aware of changes related to commute behavior due to the Corona Virus. This may also have longer-term economic development and recovery issues resulting in changes in transportation behavior. For example, since more people now work from home, will this become more prevalent and change shopping behavior? Will this change retail store configurations and require use of waiting areas? Another example is related to social distancing and how it may change land use decisions along the corridor. Will companies encourage more use of telecommuting and provide larger office spaces or shared office spaces?

Teleworking Program

Teleworking, also known as telecommuting, replaces travel to, from and for work with telecommunications technologies. It refers to working at home or another location on a full or part time basis. Many employees telework only once or twice per week, on the other hand, some employees telework full time and only go to the office on an occasional basis.

According to 2017 Census Data, of 152,802,672 working Americans over the age of 16:

- 76% drove alone
- 8.9% carpooled
- **5.2% worked from home (7,640,134 people)**
- 5% used public transportation
- 2.7% walked
- 1.3% used other transportation (ie Taxi, etc.)



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- 0.5% bicycled

*The census does not account for part time use of any mode. It does not include the dramatic changes in mode choice related to the Corona virus.

This program is widely being used during the current Corona virus situation. It can require an organization to consider issues related to management, human resources, IT, facilities, operations and payroll.

The most successful telework programs require a degree of formality and need policies, a process, training and evaluation components.

Some of the reasons for formalizing a telework program are identified below:

- To be consistent
- To define the role of management
- To define clear expectations
- To identify selection criteria for jobs and individuals
- To expand the program
- To measure success

Services offered could include assistance in:

- Removing barriers
- Program Design
- Implementation Support

The implementation of successful and more formalized teleworking is important to:

- Increase engagement and productivity
- Community and economic development
- Increase recruitment and improve retention
- Increase work/life balance
- Reduce stress due to commuting
- Save time
- Decrease exhaust emissions
- Become an Employer of Choice

Elements of a successful program often include:

- A structure for employer and employee outreach
- Partnerships with other local and regional agencies such as Chambers, TMAS, employer associations and others
- A program for attracting employers through joint workshops, training sessions, an annual telework summit or telework week
- On-going marketing

Information was provided by Elham Shirazi. For more information, you can contact her at 213 248-0030 or at elham@e-planning.com.



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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
2. Receive and file the item