

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

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director

DATE: August 12, 2020

SUBJECT: **PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE LAURA FRIEDMAN, CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR THE 43RD DISTRICT REGARDING ECO-RAPID TRANSIT, HIGH SPEED RAIL AND OTHER RAIL TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS**

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

Assembly Member Friedman is well versed on transportation and environmental issues in our corridor and has been an active on high speed rail transit issues. She will provide an update regarding Eco-Rapid Transit, High Speed Rail and other related rail transit improvements and our need to work together in our corridor from Hollywood Burbank Airport to Union Station and to Artesia. She also is a co-sponsor of SB 757, which expedites CEQA review for specific transit projects, including the West Santa Ana Branch.

BACKGROUND

The Honorable Laura Friedman was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2016 to represent the 43rd Assembly District.

In her first term in the Assembly, she secured \$20 million in funding for the completion of the Glendale Riverwalk Project, and authored a package of bills to encourage water conservation, strengthen environmental sustainability, improve access to higher education and health care, and create new avenues for communities to tackle the affordable housing crisis.

Over the course of her time in office, Assembly Member Friedman has been tapped for several leadership roles in the legislature, including the Assistant Speaker pro Tempore for the Assembly, the Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and the Chair of the Joint Rules Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response where she's led a historic bicameral and bipartisan reform of the legislature's response to sexual harassment that's become a model for other states and local governments to follow.

In January, she was named the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, which covers air quality, climate change, renewable energy, coastal protection and many more key environmental issues. Laura also serves as a member of the Assembly Committees on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media; Human Services; Transportation; and Water, Parks, and Wildlife.



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Before becoming a member of the State Assembly, she was elected to the Glendale City Council in 2009, served as Mayor from 2011 through 2012 and was re-elected in 2013. She also served for seven years on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, as a Past President of the Independent Cities Association, Hollywood-Burbank Airport Commissioner, and a Board Member of the Southern California Association of Governments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

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