

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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Michael R. Kodama

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Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings  
City Manager Representative

**A G E N D A   R E P O R T**

**TO:** Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Michael Kodama, Executive Director  
**DATE:** September 9, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** **PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE ASSEMBLYWOMAN LUZ RIVAS, 39<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT REGARDING TRANSPORTATION AND HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN ECO-RAPID TRANSIT’S NORTHERN CORRIDOR**

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**

Eco-Rapid Transit is pleased to welcome the Honorable Luz Rivas, Assembly Member representing 39<sup>th</sup> District who will speak in regards to transportation and high-speed rail transit in Eco-Rapid Transit’s Northern Corridor.

**BACKGROUND**

Assembly Member Luz M. Rivas was born in Los Angeles to an immigrant family and grew up in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. She attended Los Angeles Unified schools before earning a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from MIT and a Master’s of Education from Harvard.

She has built her career at the intersection of engineering, education and public service. She worked as an electrical design engineer at Motorola before founding DIY Girls, a nonprofit that provides enrichment programs focused on encouraging young girls to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology. While presiding over DIY Girls, she served as a Champions Board Member of the California Girls in STEM Collaborative; as a Senior Fellow at the USC Marshall Brittingham Social Enterprise Lab; on the Visiting Committee for the MIT Dean of Undergraduate Studies; and as a service-learning instructor for engineering undergraduates at USC. She also collaborated with engineers, planners and environmentalists to develop environmental technology curricula for high school students, and worked to increase diversity at Caltech and on NASA- and NSF-funded projects that aimed to increase access to STEM in community-based organizations. In 2016, she was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

Assembly Member Rivas was elected and sworn in to the California State Assembly in June of 2018. She currently serves on the Assembly Committees on Budget; Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation; Jobs, Economy Development, and the Economy; Labor and Employment; Local Government; Revenue and Taxation; and is co-chair of the Legislative Ethics Committee.



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Assembly Member Rivas is a leader on transportation and high-speed rail issues. In support of her efforts, on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, the Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors unanimously voted to support AB 3213 (Rivas) which requires the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to prioritize high speed rail project components based on benefits, passenger rail ridership and replacing auto trips with passenger rail trips.

The intent of AB 3213 is consistent with the prior position taken by the Eco-Rapid Transit Board. We believe it is important that CHSRA consider interim high-speed 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 Central California vision of the system. Under the leadership of Assembly Member Rivas and her staff, they provided an alternative that the California High Speed Rail Authority can consider a more comprehensive approach to implement a high-speed rail system that provides the most overall benefit to the State of California, increases passenger rail ridership and replaces auto trips with passenger rail trips. This maximizes future mobility and connections for all of California while also meeting the immediate needs of our corridor, consisting of a significant under-served population lacking rapid transportation options.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

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