

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 Cerritos
- 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
- Ali Sajjad Taj
Council Member
City of Artesia
- Vice-Chair
- Sean Ashton
Councilmember
City of Downey
- Secretary
- Vrej Agajanian
Councilmember
City of Glendale
- Treasurer
- Jose R. Gonzalez
Mayor
City of Cudahy
- Internal Auditor
- Alejandra Cortez
Councilmember
City of Bell Gardens
- Executive Director
Michael R. Kodama
- General Counsel
Matthew T. Summers
- Ex-Officio
William Rawlings
City Manager Representative

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director
DATE: October 13, 2021
SUBJECT: **PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE SENATOR LENA A. GONZALEZ, 33RD CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE**

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

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez represents the 33rd Senate District. She is the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. On February 12th, 2021, Senator Gonzalez was also appointed as Majority Whip of the California State Senate.

BACKGROUND

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez was first elected to the State Senate to represent the 33rd District in a special election in June of 2019 and was subsequently re-elected in the November 3, 2020 general election for her first full 4-year term. As State Senator, she represents nearly 1 million residents in Southeast Los Angeles including the Eco-Rapid Transit cities of Huntington Park, Bell, South Gate, Bell Gardens, Bell, South Gate, Cudahy and Paramount.

In the Senate, Senator Gonzalez is a strong voice for working families, advocating to improve working conditions and lifting up the voices of all workers. She prioritizes and fights for a clean environment, digital inclusion, LGBTQ+ and women’s rights and the economic vitality of small businesses among other policy areas. She currently is a member of the Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response, Energy, Utilities and Communications, Environmental Quality, Judiciary and Health committees. She is the Chair of Senate Transportation Committee, becoming the first Latina(o) to ever serve in this capacity and the only woman to serve in the last 20 years. On February 12th, 2021, Senator Gonzalez was also appointed as Majority Whip, one of seven Democratic leadership positions in the California Senate.

In 2020, Senator Gonzalez chaired a newly formed bipartisan committee of eleven senators that was tasked with reviewing the state’s response to the COVID-19 health crisis. In her time as chair of the Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response, Gonzalez led a series of hearings to inform and strengthen the strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, covering topics such as testing and contact tracing, workplace health and safety issues and K-12 distance learning.

At the beginning of the 2021 legislative session, Senator Gonzalez hit the ground running introducing Senate Bill 4 “The Broadband for All Act” to help close the digital divide. Eco-Rapid Transit unanimously supported Senate Bill 4.



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Before becoming a State Senator, Senator Gonzalez served on the Long Beach City Council from 2014-2019.

Senator Gonzalez is the daughter of a union truck driver father and mother who immigrated from Aguascalientes, Mexico. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cal State Long Beach and a Master of Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University. She lives in Long Beach with her husband Adam and their three sons Zorion, Ethan and Luca.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

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