Achieving a Lower Carbon and More Sustainable Transportation System

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Board Director, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Past President, Southern California Association of Governments
Los Angeles County
County with the largest economy in the United States

- 88 incorporated cities
- Large area – 10,570 km²
  - Larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined
- Large Population
  - Over 10 million people in LA County (4 million in City of LA); 17.6 million in surrounding counties
- More than 42 states
- Diverse – More than 40% born outside of US over 220 languages spoken
- 17th largest economy in the world
Growth in Los Angeles and Challenges to Sustainability
Historic land development and settlement spread across Southern California around a vast inter-urban rail system.

- Pacific Electric network: over 1,850 km (1,150 miles) of rail routes across 4 counties
- Made remote areas accessible to the city
Growth in Los Angeles skyrocketed in the early 20th Century

- Population grew between 1900 and 1950 from 170,000 to 4,152,000
- Growth originally followed linear transit corridors
- After World War II, Los Angeles led the US and the world in developing a spread out model of development centered around the automobile
Focus on automobiles led to disinvestment in public transit

- By 1963, Los Angeles had completely dismantled its rail transit system
- Replaced by buses
- No longer profitable, the public took ownership of the transit lines
Federal, State and Local Investments in Freeways created the most vast freeway network in the nation.
Congestion –
Los Angeles has the worst congestion in the U.S.

- Los Angeles County residents lose over 61 hours a year due to traffic delay
- Region ranked as the most congested in the nation for almost every year for the last 15 years
Unsustainable Development

Sprawl development resulted in no more room to grow.
Addressing LA’s Challenges

- Enhancing the Regional Transportation System
- Policies/Programs Supporting Sustainability
Southern California
Association of Governments (SCAG)

- Nation’s largest Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Governed by a Regional Council of 84 local elected officials
- Nation’s Global Gateway for Trade

SCAG FACTS

191 Cities
6 Counties
18.2 Million People
16th Largest Economy in the World
For Los Angeles County, Metro is...

- The Regional Planner
- The Regional Builder
- The Regional Operator
Urban Rail and Busways

1980

18 km (11 route miles) of busway

2012

36km (22 route miles) of busway
6 urban rail lines, 140 km (87 mi.), 81 stations
5 commuter rail lines to 5 surrounding counties
Existing Rail Lines and Busways

- Metro Orange Line
- Metro Red Line
- Metro Purple Line
- Metro Blue Line
- Metro Green Line
- Metro Silver Line
- Metro Gold Line

103 stations
195 km (121.2 miles)
Expanding Transit Network

197-205 stations

380 km (236.2+ miles)
Commuter Rail System

- Started in 1992:
  - 3 Lines
  - 12 stations
  - 5,000 daily riders

- Today:
  - 7 Lines
  - 56 stations
  - 45,000 daily riders
  - 512 route miles (824 route km)
Metro Bus Network

- 3711 km² (1,433 miles²) service area, 183 bus routes,
- Daily Boardings: 1.1 million on buses; 300,000 on rail
- Clean-air fleet of over 2,635 CNG buses (the largest in the US)
Re-envisioning Union Station as a Premier Destination for Travelers, Residents and Visitors

- Opened May 1939
- Hub for:
  - Light and Heavy Rail (Subway)
  - Commuter Rail (Metrolink)
  - Intercity Rail (Amtrak)
  - High Speed Rail
  - Intercity/Regional/Local Bus Lines
High Speed Rail

- Union Station to San Francisco in 2.5 hours
First-Last Mile Network

Legend
- Silver Line
- Gold Line
- Red Line
- Orange Line
- Green Line
- Blue Line
- 1/2 Mile Walking Radius
- 3 Mile Bicycle Radius

November 2011 Source: Metro Bicycle Program
Bicycle Network

- Paths – 403 km
- Lanes – 774 km
- Routes – 837 km
Transportation Demand Management and Carpooling

1980
35 km (22 miles) of carpool lanes

2012
863 km (536 miles) of carpool lanes

Improvements since 2001 Plan

Highways/Carpool Lanes Under Construction

Existing Carpool Lanes
Policies & Programs

Supporting Sustainability

(Statewide/Regional/Local)
Goal: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) to 1990 levels by 2020, and achieve 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.
The Plan and Key Strategies
Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

- Almost $525 billion in investments to improve the SCAG region’s transportation system through 2035
- $263 billion in capital investments
- $217 billion in system operations, preservation, and maintenance

allocate
ONLy 13%
capital investment
to highways

focus over
50%
growth within
3%
land area

FROM 7:3
single- vs. multi-
family units
TO 3:7
Outcomes of the RTP/SCS
A More Sustainable Region

- Exceeded requirements
- Reduced GHG and VMT
- Improved health outcomes
- Economic growth and jobs
- Fresh outlook on transportation finance
- Many other co-benefits
  - Energy, water, open space conservation

State Mandate
SB 375 GHG Reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2012 RTP/SCS Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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focus over 50% growth within 3% land area

HQTAs (2035)
Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation

Collaborative work program adopted by regional planning agency and county transportation commission

Plan benefits include:
• 500,000 jobs/year
• Preserves 85 sq miles undeveloped land
• $3,200 annual household savings

Metro
Transit-Oriented Development
Complete Streets Policy
(Under Development)

Establishes “Standards of Excellence” for Active Design—address bicycle and pedestrian needs in all projects
Education/Outreach
Green Business Practices

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES
Los Angeles of the Future – More Livable, More Vibrant, More Sustainable

“This is a transformational era for Los Angeles County...no longer will Los Angeles be known as the car capital of the world—it will be the cleanest and greenest region in the United States of America.”

Santa Monica Mayor Pam O’Connor