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Local Elected Officials Question Proposed Sales Tax Hike

PARAMOUNT – The Gateway Cities and South Bay Cities Councils of Governments, representing nearly half of the 88 cities in LA County, oppose Measure M, the projected \$121 billion sales tax increase proposed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Measure M is intended to improve transportation throughout the county, but its priority list means that some communities won't get completed improvements for decades.

“Measure M pushes back improvements to the I-5, I-605, and I-710 for 40 years. We don't think it's fair for working families to foot the bill today when they won't get significant traffic relief in their area for decades,” said Michael Mendez, Mayor of Norwalk.

Because Measure M puts many transportation projects in the region decades down the line, local elected officials have raised concerns about the expenditure of the projected \$121 billion in sales tax revenue. “Who's to say there will be any money left when it comes time to do the work on projects like the I-405-I-110 interchange and the South Bay Curve?” asked El Segundo Mayor Suzanne Fuentes.

As a sales tax increase, Measure M requires a two-thirds vote for passage. If passed, Measure M will double the transportation sales tax rate approved by voters in 2008 and have no end date. “We think the people of Los Angeles County should have all the facts about this county-wide measure and project timeline,” said Mayor Mendez.

More information about Measure M is available at gatewaycog.org/gateway/measure-m.

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