

# Achieving a Lower Carbon and More Sustainable Transportation System

Ms. Pam O'Connor

Mayor, City of Santa Monica, California, USA

Board Director, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Past President, Southern California Association of Governments



# Los Angeles



**Metro**

# Los Angeles County

County with the largest economy in the United States



- 88 incorporated cities
- Large area – 10,570 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 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
- 17<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world

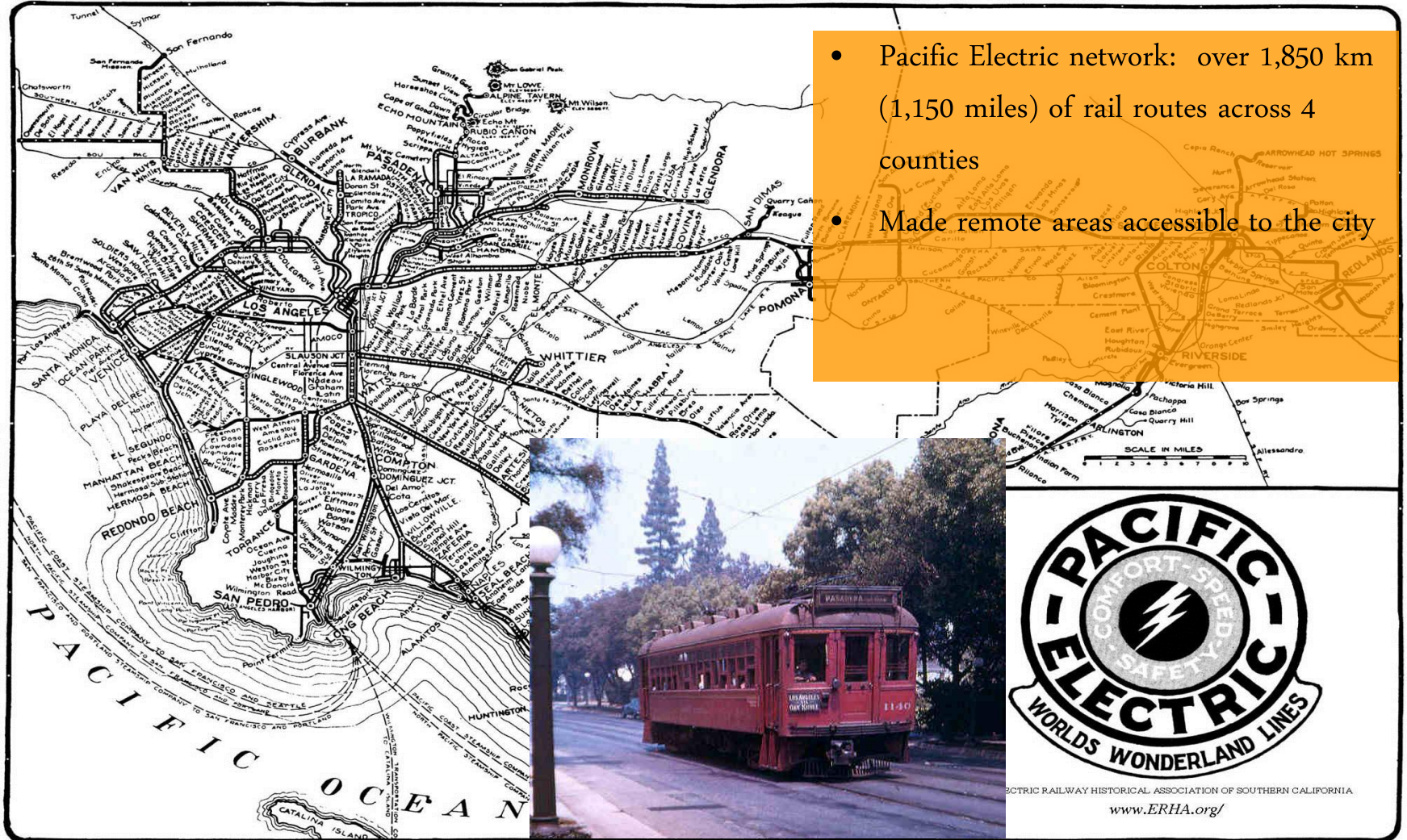


# Growth in Los Angeles and Challenges to Sustainability



Historic land development and settlement spread across Southern California around a vast inter-urban rail system

# LINES OF THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



- Pacific Electric network: over 1,850 km (1,150 miles) of rail routes across 4 counties
- Made remote areas accessible to the city



PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
[www.ERHA.org/](http://www.ERHA.org/)



# Growth in Los Angeles skyrocketed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

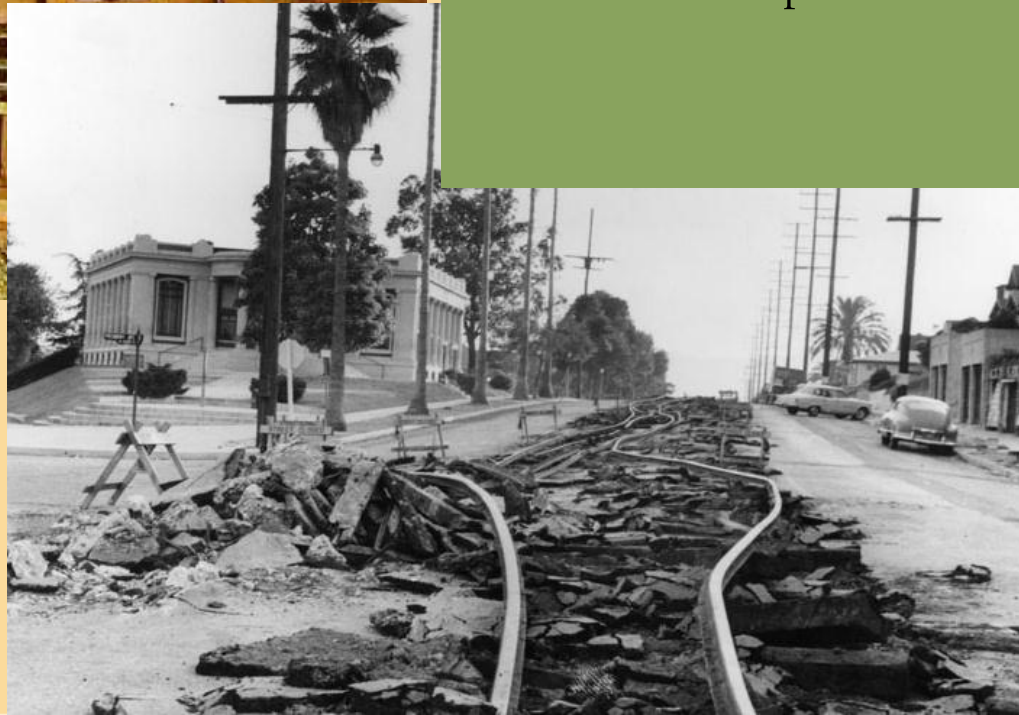


- Population grew between 1900 and 1950 from 170,000 to 4,152,000
- Growth originally followed linear transit corridors
- After World War II, Los Angeles led the US and the world in developing a spread out model of development centered around the automobile

# 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



Metro



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



metro



# 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 ▶



Metro®

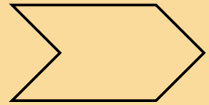
**191**  
Cities

**6**  
Counties

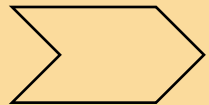
**18.2**  
Million People

**16th**  
Largest Economy  
in the World

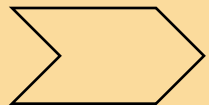
For Los Angeles County, Metro is...



The Regional Planner



The Regional Builder



The Regional Operator



**Metro**

# 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



# Expanding Transit Network



# 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)



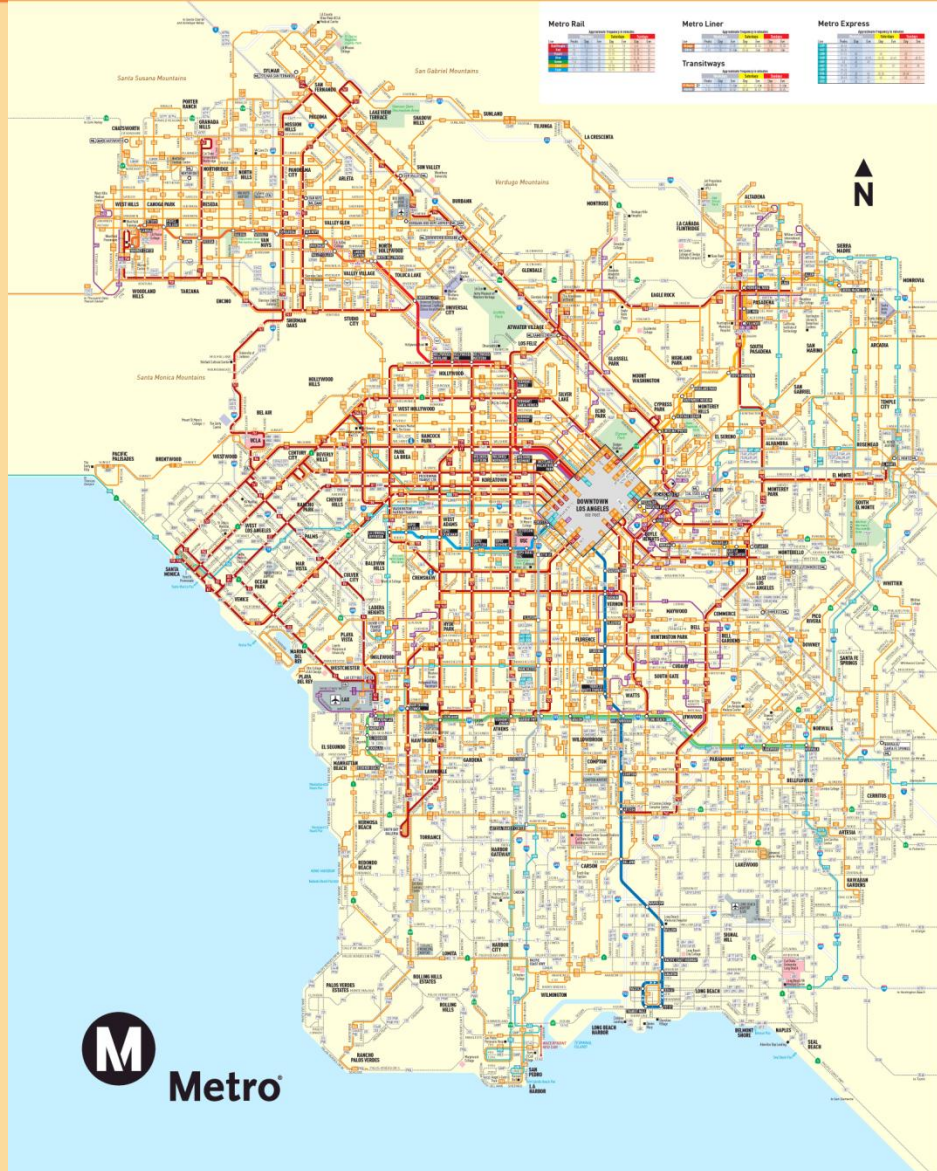
**Metro**



# Metro Bus Network



- 3711 km<sup>2</sup> (1,433 miles<sup>2</sup>) 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





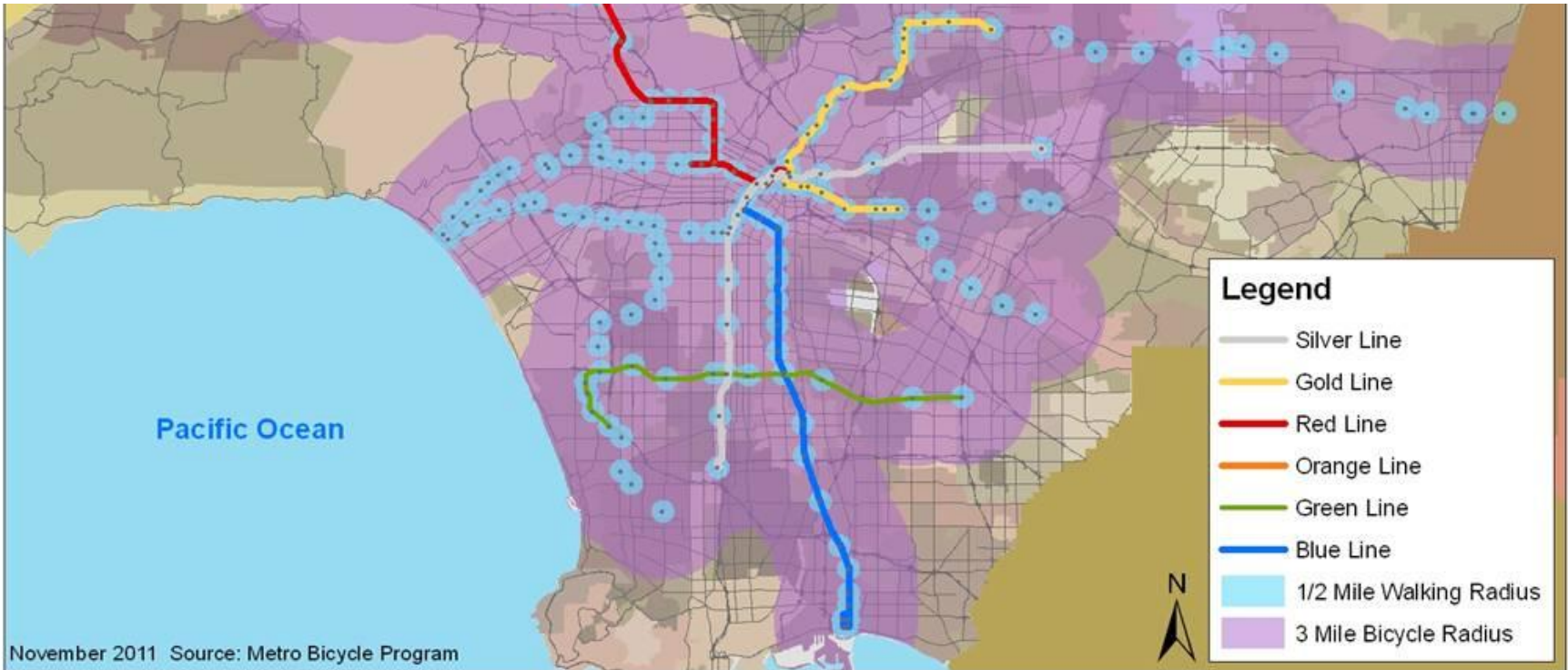
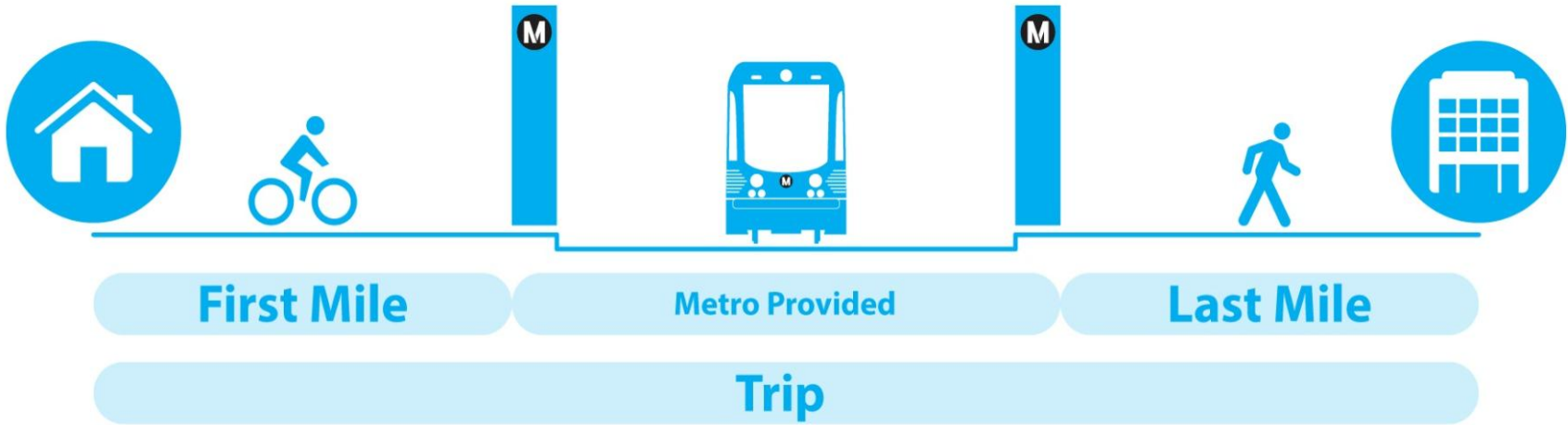
# High Speed Rail



- Union Station to San Francisco in 2.5 hours



# First-Last Mile Network



# Bicycle Network



- Paths – 403 km
- Lanes – 774 km
- Routes – 837 km











# Policies & Programs

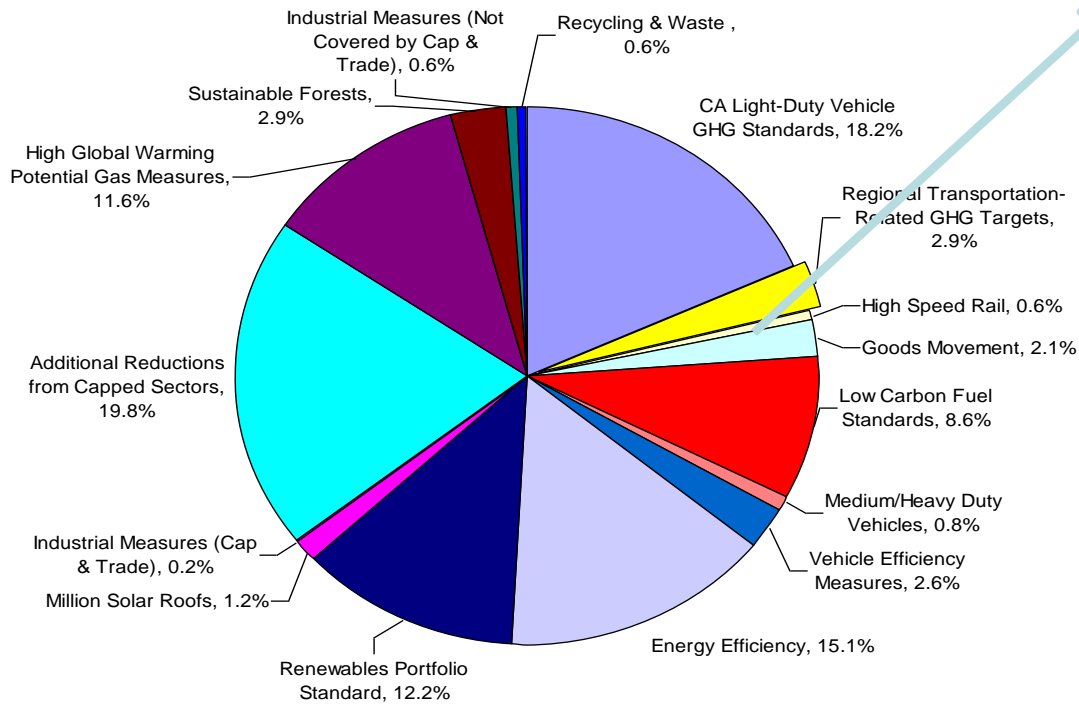
## Supporting Sustainability

(Statewide/Regional/Local)

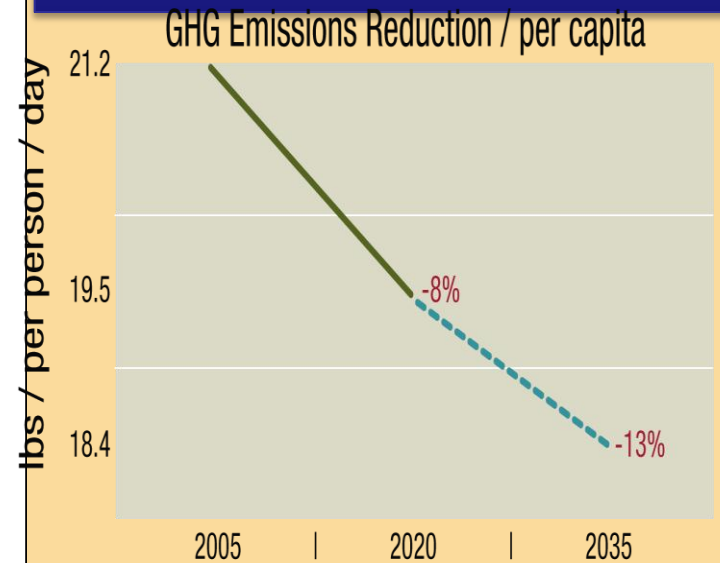
# State of California Goals



Goal: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) to 1990 levels by 2020, and achieve 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.



**Regional Light-Duty Vehicle Related GHG Targets, 2.9%**



# 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**



Metro



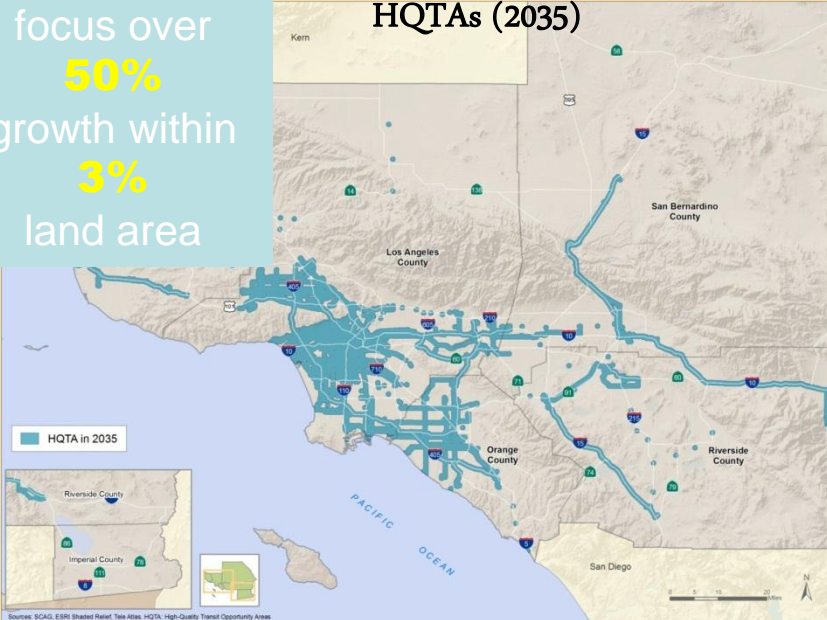
# Outcomes of the RTP/SCS

## A More Sustainable Region



focus over  
**50%**  
growth within  
**3%**  
land area

HQTAs (2035)



### State Mandate SB 375 GHG Reduction

Year	Target	2012 RTP/SCS Results
2020	8%	9%
2035	13%	16%

- 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

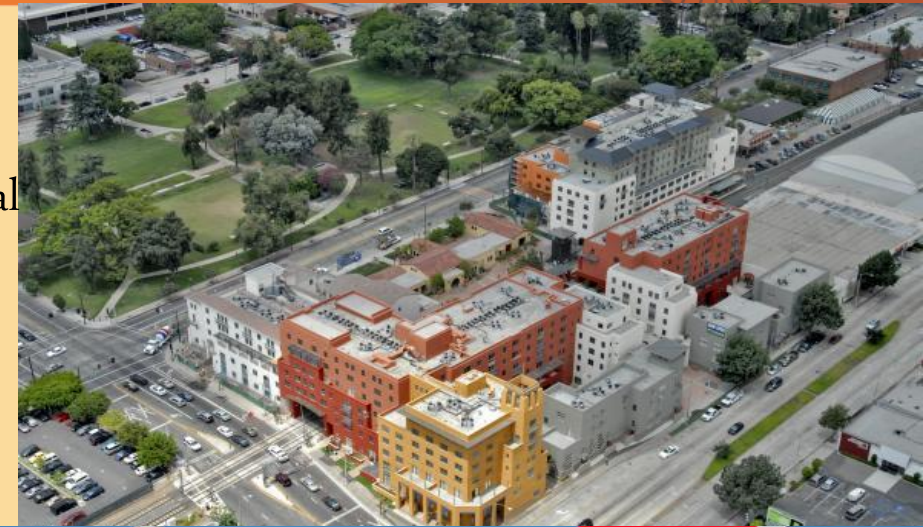


# Joint-Work Program



## Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation

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



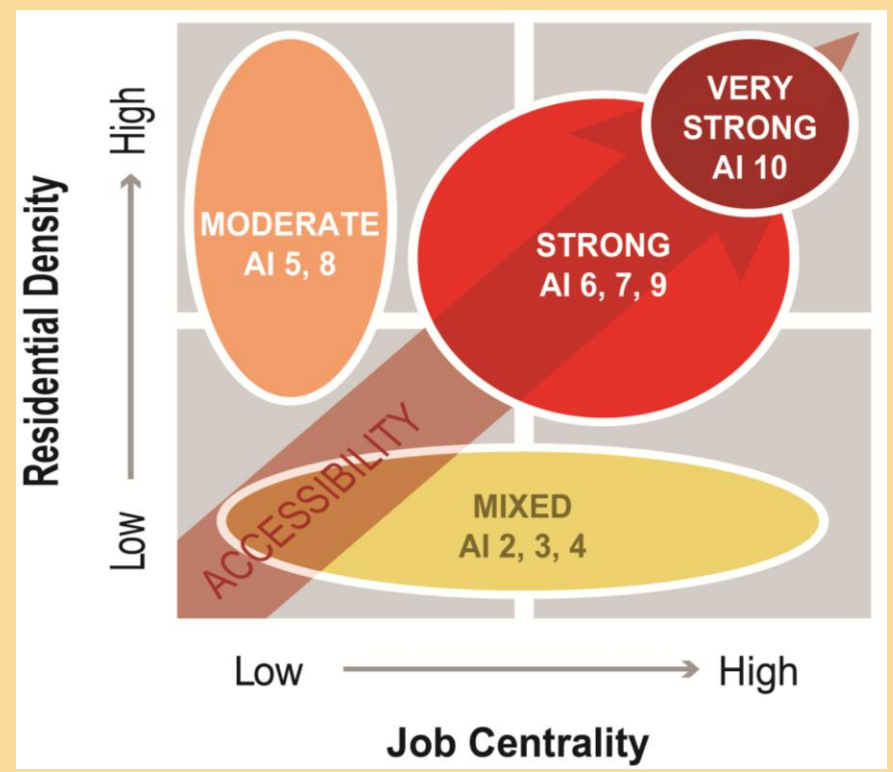
Plan benefits include:

- 500,000 jobs/year
- Preserves 85 sq miles undeveloped land
- \$3,200 annual household savings





# Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy





# 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

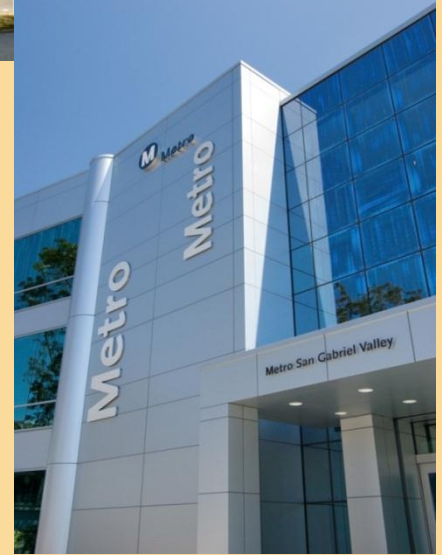




# Green Business Practices



## 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*

