



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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News Release

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LAEDC Study Concludes Measure R Projects Could Create Half Million Jobs Over Next 30 Years

*Transportation projects could generate \$68 billion in economic output
and create up to 17,000 jobs in region annually.*

Los Angeles – Measure R, the half-cent sales tax approved by 68 percent of L.A. County voters in November 2008 to finance new transportation projects and programs, could generate as much as \$68.8 billion in economic output in the five-county Southern California region and create more than 500,000 jobs over the 30-year period, according to a new study released today by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). At least \$9.3 billion in tax revenues will be generated in relation to the transportation construction projects.

The LAEDC study, “*The Construction Impact of Metro’s Measure R Transportation Projects*,” estimates that Measure R-funded construction projects could create more than half a million part-time and full-time jobs with total earnings of \$22.4 billion, or an annual average of 16,900 jobs with \$746 million in annual earnings. The majority of the job growth will occur in the construction industry, but other industries including manufacturing, real estate, retail trade, accommodation and food services, professional services, finance and insurance, and healthcare will also see a growth in employment due to construction-related projects.

The study highlights the total economic output associated with highway and freeway projects to be \$46.3 billion. These projects include building new freeways or highways, expanding capacity on freeways and interchanges, and the construction of grade separations along major goods movement corridors and sound wall barriers. Over the 30-year period, the total number of jobs related to these projects is estimated at 341,500 or an annual average of 11,380 jobs.

Transit projects, including the construction of light and heavy rail lines, subway extensions, and the construction of bus rapid transit lines, will generate \$22.5 billion in total output for the Southern California regional economy. On average, these projects will create 5,530 jobs with earnings of \$244 million annually.

“The most important economic benefit of Measure R spending is the long-term improvement to the County’s transportation system,” said Gregory Freeman, LAEDC Vice President of Consulting and Policy. “People and goods need to be able to move quickly, efficiently and conveniently throughout the region. Our study shows that the massive investment in transportation infrastructure projects will also create business activity and hundreds of thousands of jobs during construction.”

About the LAEDC

The LAEDC, the region’s premier business leadership organization, is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 under section 501(c) (3). Its mission is to attract, retain, and grow business and jobs for the regions of Los Angeles County. Since 1996, the LAEDC has helped retain or attract more than 157,000 jobs, providing \$7.5 billion in direct economic impact from salaries and \$128 million in annual tax revenue benefit to local governments and education in Los Angeles County. Visit www.laedc.org or call (888) 4-LAEDC-1.

http://www.laedc.org/reports/consulting/2010_Metro_ConstructionImpact_MeasureR.pdf

[Editors: For media interviews with Greg Freeman, author of the study, contact George McQuade, MAYO Communications, Publicity@MayoCommunications.com, 818-340-5300.