

# PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



## LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

### **Councilman Smith Lobbies MTA Board to Extend Orange Line Busway Into Northwest Valley**

**Los Angeles** – Councilman Greig Smith urged the MTA Board of Directors at its Sept. 28 meeting to build a new dedicated busway extending from the end of the successful Orange Line at Warner Center, north to the Chatsworth Depot train station, opening an entire new transit system for the Northwest Valley.

“It’s very exciting to anticipate a busway on Canoga Avenue,” Councilman Smith said. “It is crucial to bring this fast, inexpensive, convenient public transit system to thousands of people who need it. By taking more cars off the roads and freeways, it would also ease congestion and reduce pollution.”

At the meeting, Councilman Smith laid out strong arguments for a busway along Canoga Avenue, which would turn Chatsworth Depot into a transit hub giving passengers easy interconnected access to the Metrolink and Amtrak train services, the existing Orange Line, MetroRapid bus lines, and the Red Line subway. Currently, the nearest Park and Ride available for Orange Line passengers coming from the Northwest Valley is at Pierce College.

At the meeting, the MTA Board voted to start work on environmental studies and preliminary design to build the approximately six-mile busway along Canoga Avenue, where the MTA already owns the unused rail line. Councilman Smith also urged moving forward with the project quickly to take advantage of State traffic congestion funds earmarked to develop more north/south bus transit in the Valley.

The Canoga busway would also benefit from safety and operational experience gained from the MTA’s highly successful Orange Line, which saw ridership shoot up from 16,000 passengers per day to more than 21,000 per day in its first year of operation, a level not anticipated until 2020.

At the meeting, MTA Directors County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, former California Assemblymember Richard Katz, and former Vice Chair of the California Transportation Commission David Fleming, made the amendments to the MTA staff’s recommendations necessary to start the process of building the Canoga Avenue busway, along with a similar system along Van Nuys Boulevard.

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