



**MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
CITY COUNCILMEMBER JACK WEISS
CITY COUNCILMEMBER BILL ROSENDAHL**

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**MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA, COUNCILMEMBERS WEISS AND
ROSENDAHL ANNOUNCE APPROVAL OF REVERSIBLE LANE
FOR SEPULVEDA TUNNEL**

New Configuration Will Improve Traffic Flow Through One of the City's Most Congested Corridors

LOS ANGELES – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined Councilmembers Jack Weiss and Bill Rosendahl today to announce the City Council's approval of the Sepulveda Boulevard Reversible Lane, Bike Lane, and Intersection Improvement Project, which will help alleviate traffic congestion along a major commuter route between West Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

The City Council voted unanimously on Wednesday to approve the project after years of study and consideration by the Department of Transportation (LADOT) and other officials.

"Traffic is a huge headache for drivers throughout L.A., but commuters are going to get some relief in this major corridor," Councilmember Weiss said. "This reversible lane will shorten commute times in the afternoon and will help traffic flow more safely and smoothly. I'm proud to take this strong step in the right direction, and we will continue working together on innovative solutions to traffic congestion."

"The Sepulveda Boulevard Reversible Lane is a great example of thinking creatively and out-of-the-box in order to provide solutions to the gridlock we endure on the Westside," Councilmember Rosendahl said. "I am pleased to see us move forward on this project."

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The project includes some widening of Sepulveda to create turn pockets and bike lanes, and would convert the center lane in the Sepulveda Tunnel into a reversible lane that runs southbound in the morning but would travel northbound in the afternoon peak hours between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Currently the tunnel has two southbound lanes and one northbound lane, causing long backups, particularly in the afternoon, for Valley-bound drivers.

“Every resident of the San Fernando Valley knows that the Sepulveda Pass is one of the worst bottlenecks in the City,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “Valley commuters deserve creative solutions to ease traffic congestion, like the Sepulveda reversible lane project.”

An innovative approach for traffic congestion, this will be only the second reversible lane in the City of Los Angeles. The other is a 1.1 mile stretch of Fourth Street in downtown Los Angeles which handles commuter traffic to and from the 5 Freeway.

In 1999 LADOT applied for and received \$11.3 million, including over \$7 million from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) and nearly \$4 million from the City, for the project’s design and construction. Initially proposed as a six-mile reversible lane, community groups and elected officials demanded a different set of initiatives due to concerns about the winding route of Sepulveda.

Construction is expected to begin in June 2008 and will continue for 12 – 18 months.

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