



GATEWAY CITIES

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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NEW POLL SHOWS VOTER CONCERNS ABOUT MTA “MEASURE M” TAX INCREASE

PARAMOUNT – Voters countywide share the concerns of Gateway Cities’ voters about Measure M, MTA’s proposed transportation tax increase on the November ballot.

A community survey released today by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) shows that only 58 percent of Los Angeles County respondents support Measure M after hearing factual information on the issue. Measure M requires a two-thirds vote to pass. The survey was conducted by Godbe Research from August 10th to 17th.

“It isn’t surprising that the public has concerns about Measure M’s proposed spending priorities,” said Norwalk Mayor Mike Mendez. (Mendez is also a Gateway Cities COG board member.) “We’ve been saying all along that key projects in our communities are taking a back seat to transportation projects in affluent parts of the County. Our survey clearly demonstrates that fairness and equity in how funds will be spent is of significant concern to the public in almost equal numbers across the County.”

Key findings from the survey include:

Almost two-thirds of those surveyed (63.1 percent) were concerned that it would be 40 years before improvements were finished on the I-5, I-605 and I-710 freeways.

More than half (58.9 percent) were concerned that completion of transportation projects in blue collar communities would be postponed, while projects in more affluent communities are first in line to receive money under Measure M.

(more)

A similar number (55.9 percent) were concerned that light rail service planned from downtown LA through southeast LA County to the Orange County line, is being postponed for 25 years.

“The public’s policy concerns are clear,” said Mendez. “From the Valleys to the ocean, downtown to the suburbs, when people hear what Measure M seeks to accomplish -- they are concerned about how long it will take to fix existing problems and about the choice of priorities in this ballot measure.”

The survey also found that more than half of respondents are concerned about existing cost over-runs on LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority projects since 2009. And 57 percent are concerned about the fact that Measure M is a permanent tax increase.

The Gateway Cities and South Bay Cities Councils of Government have adopted official resolutions of opposition to Measure M. This includes the cities of Norwalk, Paramount, Bellflower, Commerce, Huntington Park, Vernon, Whittier, Compton, Torrance, Carson, El Segundo and Gardena, among many others.

More information about the community survey and official resolutions on Measure M is available at gatewaycog.org/MeasureM.

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