

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Metro Green Lights Northern Extension of Orange Line Busway: Good News For Northwest Valley Commuters

Los Angeles – The Metro Board of Directors approved a plan to build an extension of the Orange Line dedicated busway from its endpoint at Warner Station along Canoga Ave. to Chatsworth Depot Metrolink Station, on Thursday, June 26.

The new busway will create a multi-modal public transit hub, linking the highly successful Orange Line to Metrolink and Amtrak train service and open an entire new transit system serving Northwest Valley residents. Councilman Greig Smith who represents the communities through which the new busway would run, lauded the MTA Board's decision.

“With gas prices nearing \$5 a gallon, we must invest in fast, safe, inexpensive public transit,” Councilman Smith said. “That’s why I have worked for and supported the Orange Line extension from day one. It will dramatically improve the public transit options available to residents and employees in the Northwest San Fernando Valley in a few years, not decades.”

The busway will utilize an existing Metro-owned right-of-way along Canoga Ave., which will increase safety and reduce congestion by keeping the buses off the street. The new busway will benefit from safety and operational experience gained from the Orange Line, which saw ridership increase from 16,000 passengers per day to more than 21,000 passengers per day in its first year of operation, a level not anticipated until 2020.

Councilman Smith is working closely with the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and community members to ensure that the northern endpoint will be safe, attractive, and a good fit for the community.

The plan includes building a bus bridge across Lassen St. at Canoga Ave., leading into Chatsworth Depot at the northern endpoint to reduce the chance of collisions with cars, buses and trains.

Councilman Smith pledged to continue to advocate for a visually appealing bridge design with attractive landscaping; climbing plants on structures to reduce graffiti; plans for security and maintenance on the line and under the bridge; preservation of the character of the train station; additional parking at the station; and privacy walls for nearby residents.

The Final Environmental Impact Report is expected to be heard by the Metro Board this winter. For more information on the project, visit the project website www.metro.net/canoga.

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