September 12, 2012
10:00- 11:30 a.m.
Special Meeting

1. Welcome and Self Introductions

2. Panama Canal Impact on US Ports
   Special Guest:
   Joel Szabat, Interim Director, U.S. Maritime Administration

   With the widened Panama Canal scheduled to open in 2014, the U.S. Transportation Department has produced a study to assess the true impact of the expansion on the United States, our ports and our trade future.

   The Maritime Administration is the agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation dealing with waterborne transportation. Its programs promote the use of waterborne transportation and its seamless integration with other segments of the transportation system, and the viability of the U.S. merchant marine.

3. Discussion Items
   • Measure J Update

Upcoming Events:

   • Government & Fiscal Affairs Council- Tuesday, September 18th, 12-1:30 pm
     o The True State of LA Pension System
   • Energy, Water & Environmental Council- Friday, September 21st, 10-11:30 am
     o Bay Delta Conservation Plan & LA County Water Quality Funding Initiative
   • ACCESS City Hall- Wednesday, October 17th, 7:30-11:30 am

Next Meeting:
November 13th, 10-11:30 am
Joel Szabat  
Interim Executive Director  
U.S. Maritime Administration

As interim executive director, Joel Szabat acts as chief operating officer of the Maritime Administration, improving and strengthening the U.S. marine transportation system to meet the economic, environmental, and security needs of the United States.

Prior to his current appointment, Szabat was deputy assistant secretary for transportation policy in the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). In 2009 he oversaw DOT's implementation of $48 billion in Recovery Act programs, including Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants. He rejoined DOT in January 2008 after eighteen months as chief of staff of the Small Business Administration, where he spearheaded the creation of the Patriot Express loan program to help veterans and their families. He also helped reform the organization's disaster assistance, small business lending, and contract assistance programs.

Szabat previously directed the U.S. government's $500 million transportation reconstruction program in Iraq and served as the Transportation Counselor to the U.S. Ambassador in Baghdad. He also served as the principal consultant for transportation for the California State Assembly Republican Caucus, and as a management and budget aide to the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Measure J
Extending Half-Cent Sales Tax to Accelerate Traffic Relief and Job Creation

Background
- The Metro Board of Directors, and the County Board of Supervisors, approved placing a measure on the November ballot, now known as Measure J.
- If approved, Measure J would extend the expiration of the sales tax that was enacted in 2008 and that is already in place, without increasing the amount of that tax.
- This would be used to accelerate the construction and completion of various rail, rapid transit and highway projects in Los Angeles County.
- The acceleration of construction will require a combination of bonds and low interest federal loans now available for capital projects.

Overview
- Measure J will extend, without increase, the current ¼ cent sales tax by 30 years from 2039 to 2069.
- It will make additional funds available to sell bonds for the purpose of accelerating 7 major transit projects and up to 8 highway projects.
- The same funding categories will be continued as well as an Oversight process now in place for the current Measure.
- An Oversight Committee comprised of 3 retired judges reviews an independent audit on the transportation sales tax spending on an annual basis and this Committee would continue under Measure J.
- The measure also allows more flexibility to shift funds between transit and highway projects. Please note that funds must remain in the same subregion, a two-thirds vote of the Board is needed and local input will be critical to any change.
- Studies prepared by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) estimate that about 250,000 new direct, indirect and induced jobs will be accelerated through the advancement of the 7 transit and 8 highway projects.

Funding Decisions
- The Metro Board of Directors will continue to exercise authority over all project funding decisions utilizing the variety of funding sources available to Metro including Measure R and, if approved, Measure J.

Spending After 1.5% administration costs
The current sales tax currently funds seven transportation categories through 2039. Measure J would continue funding the same categories for another 30 years and will generate a total of $90 billion for transportation improvements.

Expenditure Plan

- Rail and Rapid Transit Expansion: 36%
- Highway Improvements: 20%
- Bus Operations: 15%
- Local Return Improvements: 10%
- Rail Operations: 5%
- Metrolink Capital: 2%
- Metro Rail Capital: 2%