



TUESDAY | November 6, 2007

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

Southern California is Moving Forward Together



Coming up at the Chamber

[View all upcoming events on our Web calendar.](#)

WED | Nov. 7
Aviation Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

FRI | Nov. 9
Accenture Pancakes & Politics
Featuring L.A. City Councilmember Jan Perry and Gail Goldberg, director, L.A. City Planning Department
[more info](#)

TUE | Nov. 13
Referral Network
Grow Your Business
[more info](#)

WED | Nov. 14
Leadership L.A. Class of 2007 Graduation & Class Report
Leadership L.A. 20th Anniversary Celebration
[more info](#)

THU | Nov. 15
Doing Business with Turkey
[more info](#)

THU | Nov. 15
Joint Education & Workforce Development and Health Care Committee meeting
[more info](#)

FRI | Nov. 16
Small Business Council
Tools for Success
[more info](#)

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org

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For the past two decades, the state and federal governments have consistently shortchanged Southern California on goods movement and transportation funding. Our region's inability to join together and collectively advocate for key projects was a major factor. The [Mobility 21](#) Summit in Ontario on Monday is a clear indicator that times are changing.

Founded in 2002 by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Automobile Club of Southern California, Mobility 21's goal was to bring together elected officials, transportation providers, businesses, labor, local municipalities, and community leaders to address the transportation issues facing Los Angeles County. Mobility 21 was instrumental in securing funding for many projects including:

- \$500 million for the construction of the Gold Line Eastside Extension
- the Metro Exposition Light Rail Transit Project
- northbound 405 carpool lanes
- Interstate 10 carpool lanes
- the Alameda Corridor East Railroad crossing improvements.

Mobility 21 was also a strong advocate for the passage of Propositions 1A and B on the ballot in November 2006. However, our partnership was confined to Los Angeles County.

That all changed yesterday at the Ontario Convention Center. This year, Mobility 21 became a regional collaborative that includes Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Each of the county's transit agencies and leading business organizations, along with the Automobile Club of Southern California, are now equal partners in advocating for projects that will benefit all 17 million residents in the five-county region.

A united regional effort is essential if Southern California is going to successfully compete against other regional coalitions around the nation for limited federal and state financial resources. It is especially vital as Congress prepares to reauthorize the SAFETEA-LU transportation funding bill in 2009. That legislation will provide billions of dollars in project funding to reduce congestion, build more mass transit, maximize goods movement and improve our environment.

With all five counties working together through Mobility 21, our potential for securing vital investment in Southern California increases dramatically. If we collaborate successfully, then all of us will share in the victories though easier commutes, more jobs and cleaner air.

Join us as we continue to make our voices heard. To learn more about the Mobility 21 coalition, including our partnering organizations and advocacy priorities, visit www.mobility21coalition.com. Local summits will continue over the next 12 months as we lead up to the 2008 regional summit. The coalition is also planning to attend the Chamber's annual advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. from April 15-17, 2008.

And that's the Business Perspective.

Gary L. Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

The Business Perspective is a weekly opinion piece by Gary Toebben, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, produced with the input of Senior Policy Advisor Rusty Hammer.

by Gary Toebben, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

L.A. Business THIS WEEK
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