Metro’s 30/10 Initiative

The 30/10 Initiative would accelerate construction of 12 key Metro expansion projects—originally scheduled to be built over three decades.
The Concept is Simple

The 30/10 Initiative is a funding proposal that would accelerate construction of 12 key Metro expansion projects originally scheduled to be built over three decades – and complete them by 2019.

The concept being explored is to use the funding for these projects, which will be collected over the next 30 years from the Measure R sales tax, as collateral for long-term bonds and a federal loan so the projects can be built much faster.

The benefits of this initiative include generating hundreds of thousands of construction and other jobs to improve the local economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ease traffic congestion.

Employment Benefit:

> **160,000** new jobs created in construction, permanent operations and maintenance

Annual Benefits with 30/10

> **521,000** fewer pounds of mobile source pollution emissions
> **10.3 million** fewer gallons of gasoline used
> **77 million** more transit boardings
> **191 million** fewer vehicle miles traveled

How 30/10 Would Work

Measure R, a local tax approved by LA County voters in 2008, is funding new transportation projects and programs. Over 30 years, it is projected to generate $40 billion for congestion relief projects throughout LA County.

The 30/10 Initiative is a concept that is being explored is to use the funding for these projects, as collateral for long-term bonds and a federal loan so the projects can be built much faster. In turn, the funds coming in from Measure R would be used to repay those loans.

*Early completion dates will ultimately be evaluated based upon chosen delivery method for each project and presented to the Metro Board for approval.

Here’s the Plan:

**TRANSMIT IMPROVEMENT BONDS (TIBs)**

TIBs are tax-preferred bonding programs that will help finance the 30/10 Initiative.

Authorization will need to be secured of a new category of direct subsidy tax-preferred bonds for transit initiatives of national significance, as part of pending or future tax legislation. These TIBs could be enacted as part of a pilot program, through which the Secretary of Transportation would allocate bond issuance authority to state and local sponsors of nationally significant projects or programs of projects, such as 30/10. The federal interest subsidy would be set at 100 percent of the interest rate on the bonds and the bond principal repayment must be backed by non-federal revenue source(s), such as Measure R.

**TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT (TIFIA)**

TIFIA is Federal Credit Assistance (TIFIA Direct Loan) that will complete the 30/10 Initiative financing package.

Legislation will need to be secured to modify the TIFIA program structure to enable the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to make an upfront credit commitment for a mega program of related projects, like 30/10, that satisfies national infrastructure investment goals. The program must demonstrate that a majority of the non-federal funding is committed and sufficient to repay the federal credit assistance. In addition, Congress would need to appropriate additional subsidy funding for the TIFIA credit program. The 30/10 Initiative will likely require about $200 million to fund the subsidy cost (capital reserve) of the $2.3 billion federal loan.
Metro is seeking to enter into an ESWA with USDOT to build two exceptional transit projects in LA County – the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway Extension.

Language will need to be secured in the President’s Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 Budget, and Congress’ FFY 2012 appropriations, providing for an ESWA valued at no less than $400 million for FY 2012 for the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway Extension projects. The total value of the Full Funding Grant Agreement would be no less than $1.7 billion, with the anticipation of additional federal grants.