

NORTHRIDGE SOUTH TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE CHAIR: MATT ZEBRO

Angelenos Take Traffic Safety Into Their Own Hands Amid City



Residents are increasingly stepping in to address traffic safety concerns as city bureaucracy lags behind urgent public needs. A recent example comes from the Sawtelle neighborhood, where volunteers painted crosswalks near Stoner Park after witnessing dangerous near-misses between pedestrians and vehicles. While local officials (including City Council Member Traci Park) praised the initiative, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) removed the markings within days, citing compliance concerns such as ADA accessibility and proper lighting. This incident exposes a broader challenge: despite ambitious city projects and safety programs, the city often struggles to implement even simple infrastructure improvements in a timely manner, leaving residents to take matters into their own hands.

The situation reflects a systemic issue called “state capacity,” where government agencies have ambitious plans but insufficient resources, staffing, or streamlined processes to deliver them effectively. Even high-profile initiatives like the Vision Zero traffic safety program, transit expansion for the 2028 Olympics, and housing developments for homeless residents face delays, cancellations, and partial completions. For instance, only a fraction of planned transit projects and housing units have been delivered, and traffic fatalities continue to rise. While public pressure occasionally prompts corrective action, these ad-hoc fixes illustrate the urgent need for structural reforms to ensure Los Angeles can meet its residents’ basic safety and infrastructure needs. [**LA Times**](#)¹

405 Freeway Weekend Closures Start Aug. 22



Caltrans is set to begin a previously announced \$150M project on the 405 through the Sepulveda Pass, reducing lanes to just three in each direction between Sunset and Victory starting Friday August 22nd. The partial closure, lasting on weekends through early 2026, will also involve multiple ramp closures at key interchanges, significantly impacting travel to and from Westwood, Santa Monica, Van Nuys, and the San Fernando Valley. Officials warn of major traffic delays and strongly urge drivers to seek alternate routes, use public transportation, or plan travel outside peak periods. The closures are part of an extensive repaving and modernization effort on one of the nation’s busiest freeways, designed to improve long-term safety and efficiency but expected to cause heavy congestion in the short term. [**NBC4**](#)²

Councilmember Lee Launches Pilot Program to Fix Hazardous Sidewalks

Councilman John Lee has dedicated \$200,000 to launch his Street S.M.A.R.T. (Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair Team) pilot program, which will fix 20 damaged sidewalks in District 12, including Granada Hills. The initiative targets long-neglected hazards, often caused by tree roots, and uses small crews funded through Lee’s office to provide faster and more cost-effective repairs. Residents have welcomed the improvements, and Lee says if the pilot proves successful, he will push to expand the program throughout the Northwest Valley. [**ABC7**](#)³

Los Angeles City Council Votes 8–5 to Oppose SB 79

The vote made official the city's formal opposition to Senate Bill 79, a statewide proposal that would require cities to permit mid-rise housing up to seven to nine stories within a half-mile of major bus and rail stops, even if local zoning currently restricts such development. Councilmember John Lee, who authored the council resolution, said, "The people of Los Angeles deserve to have a say in how their city grows," framing the bill as a significant overreach from Sacramento. Supporters of the resolution also claim that SB 79 would "hijack" local planning authority and ignore long-standing infrastructure limits, while critics argue that L.A.'s own sluggish and often cumbersome housing approval process has failed to meet the scale of the region's affordability crisis. Though largely symbolic, the vote highlights LA's and other cities ongoing pushback against Sacramento mandates, ultimately reflecting deep divisions on the issue. [LAist](#)⁴

| AGENDA ITEM(S): 44 | |
|------------------------|-----|
| BLUMENFIELD | -- |
| HERNANDEZ | NO |
| HUTT | YES |
| JURADO | YES |
| LEE | YES |
| MCOSKER | YES |
| NAZARIAN | -- |
| PADILLA | YES |
| PARK | YES |
| PRICE | NO |
| RAMAN | NO |
| RODRIGUEZ | YES |
| SOTO-MARTINEZ | NO |
| YAROSLAVSKY | YES |
| *HARRIS-DAWSON | NO |
| HERE: 13, YES: 8 NO: 5 | |

Poll Shows Californians Still Back High-Speed Rail Despite Doubts Over Completion



A recent poll finds that 62% of California voters still back the state's high-speed rail project, even amid widespread doubt it will ever be completed, showing that enthusiasm for bullet trains remains strong. Support clearly breaks along partisan lines: 79% of Democrats remain in favor, compared to 55% of independents and just 38% of Republicans.

Despite steady backing, confidence in the project's eventual completion remains low, only around 1/4 of both Democrats and Republicans believe it will be finished. The project faces mounting obstacles; delays, ballooning costs, and a \$4 billion federal funding cut. Yet state leaders, including Governor Newsom and labor allies, propose using \$1 billion annually from California's cap-and-trade revenues to keep it alive and continue construction in the Central Valley as a foundation for future expansion. [Politico](#)⁵

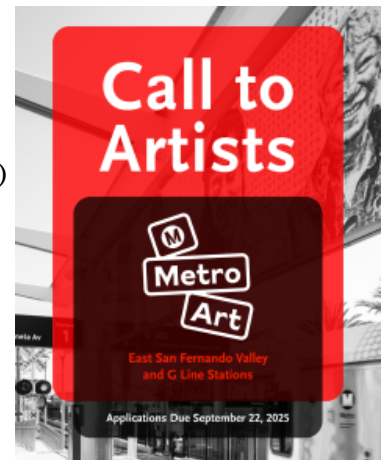
Metro Seeks Local Artists for East San Fernando Valley and G Line Station Designs

LA visual artists are invited to submit proposals for two-dimensional artwork for future Metro transit stations, 11 new light-rail stations as part of the East San Fernando Valley (ESFV) Transit Project and one elevated station that is part of the G-Line Improvements Project.

Selected artists will receive contracts valued between **\$110,000 and \$120,000**

per artwork, depending on scope and location. To get more info on the project, Metro is holding a workshop on **Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at **California State University, Northridge (CSUN)**, located at **18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330**. Reservations are requested and can be made on the project's website with directions, transit, and parking information provided to registered attendees.

Submissions are due **Monday, September 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. PDT**. [Metro](#)⁶



Wider Bike Lanes Could Boost Emergency Response in LA

Councilmember Heather Hutt has introduced a motion (Council File: 25-0930) that would direct city departments to explore options for wider bike lanes that could accommodate emergency vehicles. The goal is to ensure fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances can navigate congested streets more effectively, improving response times and public safety. Well-designed bike lanes do not slow emergency vehicles and can actually improve response times by reducing traffic congestion. Additionally, bike lanes can include dedicated infrastructure, like wider lanes or bypasses, specifically to support emergency access, while also promoting safer, more efficient travel for cyclists.

LA City Clerk

Proposed Solids Resources Fee Increase

The City is proposing adjustments to the Solid Resources Fee and the Multi-Family Bulky Item Fee, which have remained unchanged since 2008, to fully cover the costs of refuse-related services. Informational webinars will be held on **August 27th and September 13th** to provide details about these proposed changes. Financial assistance programs are available for low-income customers. Residents are encouraged to participate in the webinars and stay informed through the LASAN website for updates. **LA Sanitation**⁸

| DWELLING TYPE | CURRENT | FALL 2025 | JULY 2026 | JULY 2027 | JULY 2028 | JULY 2029 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Single Family Solid Resources Fee (per dwelling unit) | \$36.32 | \$55.95 | \$59.53 | \$60.44 | \$63.27 | \$65.93 |
| Duplex Solid Resources Fee (per dwelling unit) | \$36.32 | \$55.95 | \$59.53 | \$60.44 | \$63.27 | \$65.93 |
| Multi-Family (3-4 units*) Solid Resources Fee (per dwelling unit) | \$24.33 | \$55.95 | \$59.53 | \$60.44 | \$63.27 | \$65.93 |



Help Shape LA's Transit Future: Take the STAP Survey

The City of Los Angeles is seeking public input through a survey to enhance the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP), aiming to improve bus shelters and related infrastructure across the city. Participants can share their experiences and suggestions to help create safer, more comfortable transit environments for all Angelenos. Complete the survey at LABusStop.com

Last Call for Public Comment on Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project

The 90-day comment for the project ends on **August 30, 2025**

- Comment form - tinyurl.com/3hm99v4p
- Email: sepulvedatransit@metro.net
- Project information line: 213.922.7375
- U.S. Mail: Peter Carter, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-6, Los Angeles, CA 90012



LA Park Needs Assessment Enters Phase 3

The next round of community meetings starts in September. While there is no in-person meeting in the valley you can join the virtually on September 9th, 10th, 11th, and 18th. The meetings will consist of a presentation of the Draft Park Needs Assessment, key findings from earlier phases, and insight on how you can get involved in the remainder of the process as the city moves forward towards the Final Report. Meeting information can be found on their website needs.parks.lacity.gov



Monthly Trash Cleanup!

Volunteers Cleaning Communities is hosting their next Northridge cleanup on **Sunday September 14th from 8:30-10:30AM at Reseda/Nordhoff**. Cleanups are led by NSNC member and VCC leader *Matt Zebro*.

Links for Further Reading and More Info

¹Angelenos Take Traffic Safety Into Their Own Hands Amid City
- tinyurl.com/3ycv2us4



²405 Freeway Weekend Closures -
tinyurl.com/ywn3nffd



³ Councilman Lee Launches Pilot Program to Fix Hazardous Sidewalks -
tinyurl.com/9cut32z3



⁴Los Angeles City Council Votes 8-5 to Oppose SB 79 -
tinyurl.com/3rbhuphu



⁵Poll Shows Californians Still Back High-Speed Rail Despite Doubts Over Completion -
tinyurl.com/44ceb4bv



⁶Metro Seeks Local Artists for East San Fernando Valley and G Line Station Designs -
tinyurl.com/3v9x7btz



⁷Bike Lane Council Motion -
tinyurl.com/4hdbv7yd



⁸Proposed Solids Resources Fee Increase -
tinyurl.com/4z6c5b5f



⁹Help Shape LA's Transit Future: Take the STAP Survey -
tinyurl.com/2pbe6pxa



¹⁰Phase 3 of LA Park Needs Assessment -
tinyurl.com/4pbycuw4



Northridge Monthly Trash Cleanup Signup

Google Signup: tinyurl.com/y955nevp
Email cleanup8r8@gmail.com



Look up Legislation by Bill #

tinyurl.com/4awahpsr



California

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Thank you for reading! For any questions, concerns, or comments, please email mzebro.nsncc@gmail.com