

Transit Investment

A Road to Better Communities

Investing in our transit system provides an opportunity to rebuild our infrastructure and help our local economy move forward. Improving mass transit and making our roads safer, in addition to generating construction jobs, increases economic activity that will directly benefit local communities.



The Construction Careers Project represents an effort to link \$67 billion in public investment by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to the creation of good jobs for local residents and low-income communities.

The Construction Careers Project has two key components: 1) A Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), which is a collective bargaining agreement between the building trades and developers that set wages and benefits for workers, and ensures labor peace on the job, and 2) a Targeted Hire Program aimed at increasing access to careers in the construction industry for local residents and low income communities.

To make sure that LA benefits from this investment, the Metro Board of Directors should adopt a Construction Careers Policy. Such a policy at Metro would:

- Require a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) with a Targeted Hire Program for the 257,000 transportation construction jobs generated through Metro projects.
- Require that up to 77,000 of these jobs be reserved for Los Angeles County residents.
- Require that of the 77,000 jobs, up to 26,000 go to workers with barriers to employment, such as former recipients of public assistance and those affected by chronic unemployment.

How Do Worker Earnings Directly Benefit LA County Communities?

A Metro Construction Careers Policy would stimulate the local economy by ensuring that local residents and businesses see the benefits of public spending. By setting job standards and creating career paths, Metro is guaranteeing that public funds are not being used to create low-wage jobs with meager benefits that put a strain on taxpayers.

Public investment that generates good middle-class jobs directs resources back into LA communities. Workers who are employed on Metro projects will spend their earnings at local businesses, creating additional jobs. This economic activity will also contribute to our local tax revenue that is used, in part, to finance Metro transit projects.

Under a proposed a Metro Construction Careers Policy, transit investment would generate **77,000 construction jobs** that would be reserved for LA County residents. These workers' earnings alone would:

- Generate an additional **\$2.8 billion** in economic activity in LA County
- Create an additional **18,400 local jobs** in industries such as health care, retail and food services through increased demand for goods and services
- Contribute at least **\$65 million** in LA County tax revenue

Source: Dr. Kevin Duncan, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Hasan School of Business