VICA Celebrates Metro Board Approval to Build Light Rail Line for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor

"The East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor fulfills a promise to voters - a commitment to better connect communities throughout the Valley."

- Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

VICA President Stuart Waldman joins Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency Brian Annis, VICA Board Member Francine Oschin (Oschin Partners) and Executive Director of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments John Bwarie at a press conference celebrating Metro Board's vote to bring light rail to the San Fernando Valley.

Last Thursday, VICA President Stuart Waldman joined Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Councilwoman Nury Martinez, Metro CEO Phil Washington and other Valley elected officials at a press conference hosted by Metro in celebration of the Metro Board's historic vote to bring light rail to the San Fernando Valley.

For years, VICA has led advocacy and coalition-building efforts to grow support for bringing light rail to the San Fernando Valley. "The Metro Board's approval of light rail for the East Valley Transit Corridor is a crucial step toward delivering on the promise made to voters," Waldman said. "This is exactly what Valley residents voted for when they passed Measure M."
Renewing Members

Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley (2007)
Daar & Newman (2011)
Glendale Arts & Alex Theatre (2014)
Hand Prop Room (2013)

Calendar

The Week Ahead

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, July 10
8 - 10 a.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood
Click here to RSVP

New Member Breakfast
Thursday, July 12
8:30 - 10 a.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Save the Date

Newsmaker Connection with Christina Miller
Tuesday, July 17
3 - 4:30 p.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 18
Noon - 2 p.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Leaders Forum with Austin Beutner
Thursday, July 19
8 - 9:30 a.m.
Sportsmen's Lodge, Starlight Room
12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

stood with VICA and supported Measure M. We are thrilled this is finally becoming a reality."

When completed in 2027, the light rail line will allow local residents and visitors from across the Valley and Los Angeles access to shops, restaurants and other amenities such as hospitals, schools and the Van Nuys Civic Center.

Click here for more information on the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor.

Click here to read VICA’s full statement on the Metro Board’s approval to build light rail in the San Fernando Valley.

Mayor Garcetti’s Homeless Strategies Tsar
Christina Miller
Tuesday, July 17, 2018
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. at the VICA Office

Join VICA for a special Newsmaker Connection, as Senior Project Manager of Homeless Strategies Christina Miller talks about her work in alleviating the current homelessness crisis facing Los Angeles.

The event is free for VICA members. Non-members interested in attending, please contact Helene at the VICA office.

Click here to RSVP Today!

Job Opportunity at VICA: Legislative Affairs Associate

VICA is looking for a Legislative Affairs Associate who will support the legislative affairs team advocating on issues impacting business at the local, state and federal levels. This is an excellent opportunity for a recent graduate to work in a fast-paced environment on a wide range of policy issues, with opportunities to learn and gain valuable networks and experience. Please share this with your contacts and, to apply, email a resume and cover letter to Jessica@vica.com.

Read the job description by clicking here.

Oppose Rent Control in Los Angeles County

On July 31, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will consider a draft interim rent hike freeze ordinance. VICA is unclear how this proposal is legal under the Costa-Hawkins
Hot Issues

Education
The State Board of Education will likely approve another set of revisions to California’s plan to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. State officials remain optimistic that the plan will be signed by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Gas Tax
A former San Diego city councilmember announced this week he’s raised over $1.1 million online for his campaign to repeal the 12-cent-a-gallon gas tax backed by Gov. Brown. The repeal of the gas tax would threaten the funding plan to handle a backlog of road and bridge repairs.

Immigration
A federal judge refused to block California from restricting local law enforcement cooperation with immigration agents, an early legal victory for the state’s “sanctuary” law. This law represents one of the clearest attempts by Californians to push back against the president’s zeal in curtailing illegal immigration.

Net Neutrality
California lawmakers said they’ve reached an agreement on legislation to enshrine net neutrality provisions in state law. The California proposal goes further than the now-defunct federal rules.

Marijuana Regulation
The stop-gap measure will cap rent hikes at 3 percent a year in incorporated areas of LA County, with “base rents” frozen at current levels. This draft rent control ordinance will be devastating to the rental housing market, especially as California is already being suffocated by the housing crisis. This ordinance would effectively kill the incentive to build more housing, cause landlords to neglect maintenance and repair and inflate prices for non rent-controlled units. Many cities have taken significant steps toward incentivizing affordable housing, and these programs should be given the opportunity to work rather than repealing settled law that balances the interests of renters and landlords.

For more information, email Armando@vica.com.
Marijuana Regulation

Following the broad marijuana legalization at the start of the year, the legal market has been massively undercut by a surge in the black market. The number of outlaw dispensaries in Los Angeles County greatly outnumbers the 150 licensed storefront retailers.

Soda Tax

California recently banned local soda taxes, as Governor Brown signed legislation prohibiting local governments from imposing new taxes on soda until 2031. This follows similar bans recently passed in Arizona and Michigan.

Member Messages:

Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!

VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for $50 per week or $175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional $5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.