



Public Transit

As Orange County continues to grow, building a visionary rail transportation system that is safe, clean and convenient, uses and preserves existing rights-of-way, and, over time, provides high-speed connections both inside and outside of Orange County, is a long term goal. Twenty-five percent of the net revenue from Renewed Measure M, or \$2.83 billion, will be dedicated to transit programs countywide. About twenty percent, or \$2.24 billion, will be dedicated to creating a new countywide high capacity transit system anchored on the existing, successful Metrolink and Amtrak rail line, and about five percent, or \$591 million, will be used to enhance senior transportation programs and provide targeted, safe localized bus service.

Environmental Cleanup

Every day, more than 70 million gallons of oily pollution, litter, and dirty contaminants wash off streets, roads, and freeways and pour onto Orange County waterways and beaches. When it rains, the transportation-generated beach and ocean pollution increases tenfold. Under the plan, two percent of the gross Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan, or \$237 million, will be dedicated to protecting Orange County beaches from this transportation-generated pollution (sometimes called "urban runoff") while improving ocean water quality.

Taxpayer Safeguards and Audits

When new transportation dollars are approved, they should go for transportation and transportation purposes alone. No bait-and-switch. No using transportation dollars for other purposes. The original Measure M went solely for transportation purposes. The Renewed Measure M must be just as airtight. One percent of the gross Measure M

program, or \$118.6 million over 30 years, will pay for annual, independent audits, taxpayer safeguards, an independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee assigned to watchdog government spending, and a full, public disclosure of all Renewed Measure M expenditures. A detailed review of the program must be conducted every ten years and, if needed, major changes in the investment plan must be brought before Orange County voters for approval. Taxpayers will receive an annual report detailing the Renewed Measure M expenditures. Additionally, as required by law, an estimated one and a half percent of the sales taxes generated, or \$178 million over 30 years, must be paid to the California State Board of Equalization for collecting the one-half cent sales tax that funds the Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan.

In this pamphlet, every specific project, program, and safeguard included in the Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan is explained. Similar details will be provided to every Orange County voter if the measure is placed on the ballot.





Taxpayer Safeguards and Audits Overview

When new transportation dollars are approved, they should go for transportation and transportation alone. No bait-and-switch. No using transportation dollars for other purposes. The original Measure M went solely for transportation. The Renewed Measure M will be just as airtight.

And there will be no hidden costs in the program.

Prior to allocation of funds for freeway, street and transit projects, one percent of gross revenues from the Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plans is set aside for audits, safeguards, and taxpayer protection. By state law, one and one half percent of the gross sales taxes generated by Measure M must be paid to the California State Board of Equalization for collecting the countywide one-half percent sales tax that funds the Transportation Investment Program.

Special Trust Fund

To guarantee transportation dollars are used for transportation purposes, all funds must be kept in a special trust fund. An independent, outside audit of this fund will protect against cheaters who try to use the transportation funds for purposes other than specified transportation uses. A severe punishment will disqualify any agency that cheats from receiving Measure M funds for a five-year period.

The annual audits, and annual reports detailing project progress, will be sent to Orange County taxpayers every year and will be reviewed in public session by a special Taxpayer Oversight Committee that can raise fiscal issues, ask tough questions, and must independently certify, on an annual basis, that transportation dollars have been spent strictly according to the Renewed Measure M Investment Plan.

Back to the Voters

Of course, over the next 30 years, things will change. Minor adjustments can be made by a 2/3 vote of the Taxpayer Oversight Committee and a 2/3 vote of the Orange County Local Transportation Authority Board of Directors. Major changes must be taken back to voters for authorization. And, every ten years, and more frequently if necessary, the Orange County Local Transportation Authority must conduct a thorough examination of the Renewed Measure M Investment Plan and determine if major changes should be submitted to the voters.

There are other important taxpayer safeguards, all designed to insure the integrity of the voter-authorized plans. But each is focused on one goal: guaranteeing that new transportation dollars are devoted to solving Orange County's traffic problems and that no transportation dollars are diverted to anything else.

