
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**Senator Dave Cortese, Chair****2025 - 2026 Regular**

Bill No: SB 220**Hearing Date:** 4/28/2025**Author:** Allen**Version:** 4/9/2025 Amended**Urgency:** No**Fiscal:** Yes**Consultant:** Melissa White**SUBJECT:** Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

DIGEST: This bill revises, beginning January 1, 2029, the composition of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) governing board.

ANALYSIS:*Existing law:*

- 1) Creates the LA Metro with specified powers and duties relative to transportation planning, programming, and operations in the County of Los Angeles.
- 2) Establishes the LA Metro governing board comprised of 14 members, as follows:
 - a) Five members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors;
 - b) The Mayor of the City of Los Angeles;
 - c) Two public members and one member of the Los Angeles City Council appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles;
 - d) Four members, each of whom shall be a mayor or a member of a city council, appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee from the following sectors: North County/San Fernando Valley sector; the Southwest Corridor sector; the San Gabriel Valley sector; and, the Southeast Long Beach sector.
 - e) One non-voting member appointed by the Governor.

- 3) Requires the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division to define the sectors. Provides every city within a sector the ability to vote to nominate one or more candidates for consideration for appointment by the city selection committee. Requires a city's vote to be weighted in proportion to population based on the total population of all cities within the same sector.
- 4) Specifies that, if the population of the City of Los Angeles, at any time, becomes less than 35% of the combined population of all cities in Los Angeles County, the position of one of the two public members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, shall be vacated, and the vacant position shall be filled by appointment by the city selection committee from a city not represented by any other member currently appointed.
- 5) Requires that the members selected by the city selection committee serve four-year terms with no limitation on the number of terms that may be served by any individual.
- 6) Requires that if the number of members of the Board of Supervisors is increased, LA Metro, within 60 days of the increase, to submit a plan to the Legislature for revising the composition of the board.

This bill:

- 1) Revises, as of January 1, 2029, the governing board of LA Metro, as follows:
 - a) The County Executive of Los Angeles County;
 - b) Three public members appointed by the County Executive;
 - c) Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (which would be five members until 2032, then eventually increasing to nine members);
 - d) The Mayor of Los Angeles;
 - e) Two public members and one member of the Los Angeles City Council appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles;
 - f) Four members, each of whom shall be a mayor or a member of a city council, appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee from the following sectors: North County/San Fernando Valley sector; the

Southwest Corridor sector; the San Gabriel Valley sector; and, the Southeast Long Beach sector.

- g) One non-voting member appointed by the Governor.
- 2) Requires, if the charter of the County of Los Angeles is amended to change the number of members of the Board of Supervisors or eliminate the office of the elected County Executive, LA Metro, within 60 days of the charter amendment, to submit a plan to the Legislature for revising the composition of the Board.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, “The Legislature created the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) in 1992 after conflicts between competing transportation agencies led to intentionally inefficient and conflicting project planning. Metro is now the second largest public transit operator in the country and is responsible for the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of transit and highway projects in Los Angeles County.

“The agency is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors consisting of all five members of the County Board of Supervisors and various councilmembers representing smaller cities in geographic sectors of the county. It is responsible for overseeing the transit system that served over 300 million riders in 2024 and over \$9 billion in taxpayer approved funding measures. The existing Metro board structure, with many local representatives, may lend to provincial decision making with members more focused on delivering capital construction projects for their constituencies with less attention on other beneficial improvements across the County.

“Los Angeles County voters approved Measure G in 2024 with the goal of improving representative government by expanding the Board of Supervisors to nine members and creating the position of an elected County Executive. SB 220 will update the membership of the Metro Board of Directors to account for the changes in county governance enacted with the passage of Measure G and improve regional decision-making. Specifically, the bill will add four additional seats for the new County Supervisors, a seat for the County Executive, and three seats for appointees of the County Executive who will have a vested interest in county-wide needs and broader regional improvements.”

- 2) *LA Metro.* LA Metro was created, pursuant to AB 152 (Katz, Chapter 60, Statutes of 1992), through the consolidation of the Los Angeles County

Transportation Commission and the Southern California Rapid Transit District. LA Metro is the second largest public transportation system in the United States by ridership, serving more than 300 million people annually in a 1,433 square mile area. LA Metro also serves as the regional transportation planning agency for Los Angeles County, and administers local sales taxes levied to fund transportation projects within the county.

Currently, the 14-member LA Metro governing board is made up of the five Los Angeles County Supervisors; the Mayor of Los Angeles; two public members and one Los Angeles City Councilmember appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles; four city council members appointed by the city selection committee; and one non-voting gubernatorial appointment.

- 3) *LA voters approve plan to expand the county board.* In November 2024, Los Angeles County voters approved, by 51%, Measure G, a comprehensive governance reform measure. Measure G establishes new ethics rules, expands the Board of Supervisors to nine seats, and creates the position of an elected County Executive.

Specifically, Measure G would expand the Board of Supervisors from five to nine supervisors after the 2030 redistricting process concludes. Elections for newly formed districts would start with the 2032 election. Measure G also created, starting in 2028, a position of an elected County Executive to serve as the county's chief administrative officer. The County Executive would have broad executive and administrative powers and oversee county personnel and officers with specific exceptions including the Board of Supervisors, County Sheriff, and District Attorney, among others.

Measure G also creates a Los Angeles County Ethics Commission, a Director of Budget and Management, an Office of Legislative Analyst, and a Charter Review Commission.

- 4) *Measure G creates a task force for implementation.* To oversee the implementation of Measure G, the Board of Supervisors created the Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF). The GRTF will advise the Board of Supervisors on recommendations and a timeframe to implement the changes to the charter and will include "robust community and stakeholder outreach."

The GRTF will consist of county representatives, community leaders, and residents. The GRTF is expected to officially begin work by May 30, 2025. Initial appointments to the GRTF were made on April 15, 2025, with each Supervisor appointing one member from applications received. These five

members will nominate five at-large members within 30 days. The GRTF will conclude its work no later than December 3, 2028, unless extended by the Board of Supervisors.

- 5) *SB 220 would add seats to LA Metro board to accommodate Measure G expansion.* SB 220 would expand the governing board of LA Metro to include the newly expanded Board of Supervisors and County Executive approved as part of Measure G. The additions to the LA Metro Board would happen in stages. First, by 2029, the newly elected County Executive would be added. The County Executive would also appoint three public members. This would increase Board membership from 14 to 18 members. Second, beginning after the 2032 election, newly elected County Supervisors would be added to the Board as they take office, totaling 22 members.

The final composition of the 22 member Board would be nine members of the Board of Supervisors, one County Executive, three public members appointed by the County Executive, the Mayor of Los Angeles, two public members and one member of the Los Angeles City Council appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles, four mayors or city council members appointed by the city selection committee, and one nonvoting member appointed by the Governor. This seat is usually occupied by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District Seven Director.

Additionally, current law requires LA Metro to submit a plan to the Legislature for revising the composition of the Board 60 days after the Board of Supervisors is increased. As new members will not be elected to the Board of Supervisors until 2032, LA Metro's plan would not be due until then. SB 220 would instead require LA Metro to submit a plan within 60 days of the LA County charter being amended, specifically to change the number of members of the Board of Supervisors or eliminate the office of the County Executive. As this provision would be prospective, it would not affect the timeline of LA Metro's required actions to accommodate Measure G.

- 6) *Is SB 220 premature?* As noted, the election of the newly created County Executive is slated for 2028 and the expansion of the Board of Supervisors will start in 2032. The County is in the midst of a GRTF process to develop an implementation strategy for the changes included in Measure G. It is unclear whether county representation on other boards and commissions will be part of the GRTF's work.

Additionally, as noted above, current law requires LA Metro to submit a plan to the Legislature for revising the composition of the Board 60 days after the

Board of Supervisors is increased. It is unclear what this process would entail, but it would not occur until after the 2032 election. Writing in opposition to the bill, LA Metro states, “this provision in statute provides a process by which changes to the composition of the Metro Board of Directors should be made. The submission of a plan to the Legislature allows for a local, agency-led, fiscally responsible, orderly consideration of changes to the structure to the Board in anticipation of the increase in the number of County Supervisors after the 2032 election. SB 220 bypasses this statute, disregarding a process that ensures local control and orderly consideration.”

- 7) *County vs. Cities.* Currently, the LA Metro Board has 14 members (13 voting members), with eight members from, or appointed by, the cities. Of the eight members, the Mayor of Los Angeles can appoint two public members. Currently, only one of those seats is held by a public member, Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, who is the founding president of the Ward Economic Development Corporation. The other is held by a member of the LA City Council. Five members are from the county.

SB 220 would expand the Board to an eventual total of 22 members (21 voting members), with the same eight members from the cities, and 13 members from, or appointed by, the county. Of the 13 members, the County Executive could appoint three public members.

As stated by the author, “The existing Metro board structure, with many local representatives, may lend to provincial decision making with members more focused on delivering capital construction projects for their constituencies with less attention on other beneficial improvements across the County.”

LA Metro is concerned that, “SB 220 seeks to increase the influence that County government has on the Board. We are particularly concerned with the assertion in the bill’s fact sheet that Metro places disproportionate emphasis on capital projects at the expense of operational investments. This is inaccurate. Operations are at the center of Metro’s priorities, and our investments demonstrate that commitment.”

RELATED/PREVIOUS LEGISLATION:

SB 268 (Mendoza, 2017) – Would have revised the composition of the LA Metro governing board, from 14 to 22 members, as specified, unless a different composition is agreed to in a plan supported by specified local entities prior to December 1, 2018. *This bill was held in the Assembly Local Government Committee.*

SB 1472 (Mendoza, 2016) – Would have expanded the governing board of the LA Metro from 14 to 22 members, as specified. *This bill died on the Senate Inactive File.*

AB 1941 (Holden, 2014) – Would have expanded LA Metro board of directors to 16 members by adding members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules. Also would have added an unspecified number of public members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, as specified. *This bill was held in the Assembly Local Government Committee.*

AB 251 (Knight, 2009) – Would have reconfigured the makeup of the LA Metro Board by removing one of the public members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles and adding the appointment of one member by the city councils of the Cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, and Santa Clarita. *This bill failed passage in the Assembly Local Government Committee.*

SB 1507 (Margett, 2005) – Would have increased the number of sectors represented by individuals appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee from four to five and reduces the number of public members on the LA Metro Board appointed by the mayor of the City of Los Angeles from two to one. *This bill died on the Senate Inactive File.*

AB 152 (Katz, Chapter 60, Statutes of 1992) – Created LA Metro through the consolidation of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the Southern California Rapid Transit District.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.)

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

City of Lomita

LA Metro

LA Metro Board Member Mayor Ara Najarian

LA Metro Board Member Council Member Fernando Dutra

LA Metro Board Member Mayor Tim Sandoval
LA Metro Board Member Mayor James Butts
North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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