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Metro Board Approves Plan to help Businesses During Construction of the Crenshaw/LAX rail line

Today, the 13-member Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved a groundbreaking program designed to help businesses along Crenshaw Boulevard struggling with economic losses due to construction of the Crenshaw/LAX rail line. Since construction began last January, stores, shops and salons along a stretch of the Crenshaw Corridor near the intersections along Martin Luther King Boulevard and Exposition Boulevard have faced challenges from street closures, fencing and loss of street parking as well as other construction impacts. Responding to their concerns has been a top priority for Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and other members of the Metro Board.

Under the newly established \$10 million-business interruption fund, some businesses will be eligible to receive a maximum of \$50,000 annually, not to exceed 60 percent of their business revenue loss. To qualify, owners must have no more than 25 employees; have been in operation for two years, are in good standing with local, state and federal tax requirements and are able to produce financial record demonstrating the loss of business revenue directly related to the construction are eligible for assistance.

The motion creating the new program was co- authored by Metro Board Directors Mark Ridley-Thomas, Gloria Molina, Jacquelyn DuPont-Walker and Mayor Eric Garcetti. Also included in the package is a new *Crenshaw Eat, Shop, Play Local* campaign and a the creation of a business solution center that will offer advice, assistance in financial planning, grant applications, operations and navigating regulations.

“I salute directors Molina, DuPont-Walker and Mayor Garcetti for their attentiveness in responding to the needs of the community,” Ridley-Thomas said. I commend the Metro Board for its tenacity in taking action to ensure that the Crenshaw/LAX line is a win-win for everyone. Our priority is to ensure that the long term economic gains of the Crenshaw/LAX line to Los Angeles County don’t come at a cost of fiscal distress to our local businesses.”

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