



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember Huizar Appointed to Metro Board of Directors

Mayor Villaraigosa taps Councilmember José Huizar to fill important post on board that decides transportation issues for Los Angeles County

LOS ANGELES (March 26, 2009) – Councilmember José Huizar was appointed Thursday to the Metro Board of Directors by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, filling the vacant seat left by Councilmember Bernard Parks, who recently resigned the position he held since 2005.

The 14-member board consists of the Mayor, the five Los Angeles County Supervisors, four city councilmembers from cities and counties other than Los Angeles, one non-voting member appointed by the governor and three Mayoral appointees, one of whom must be a Los Angeles City Councilmember. Following a press conference announcing the appointments of Huizar and LADOT General Manager Rita Robinson, the new appointees attended their first Metro Board meeting.

“From the Eastside Gold Line extension in Boyle Heights, to the Valley Boulevard Bridge in El Sereno, to my plan to bring the beloved streetcar back to Downtown Los Angeles, I have been actively engaged in major transportation issues throughout my time in office and relish the opportunity to do more,” Huizar said Thursday. “I look forward to working with the Mayor and the entire Metro Board on building a world-class bus service and expanding rail lines as we usher in a new dawn in Los Angeles’ transportation needs and services.”

Before being elected to the City Council in 2005, Huizar served as LAUSD School Board President, where he oversaw the implementation of the largest construction and modernization public school project in U.S. history when the board committed to a \$14 billion plan to construct 160 new schools.

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That experience will serve him well on the Metro Board of Directors as they begin to make critical decisions regarding the voter-approved Measure R, which will bring in an estimated \$40 billion in funding for transportation projects throughout Los Angeles County.

Huizar currently serves on the Southern California Association of Governments' Transportation Committee. He is also the Chair of the L.A. County Education Coordinating Council. On the City Council, Huizar serves as Chair for the audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee and is Vice-Chair on the Planning & Land Use Management Committee.

Huizar grew up in Boyle Heights and holds a master's degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a juris doctorate from the UCLA School of Law.

He lives in Boyle Heights with his wife, Richelle Rios, and their three children, Emilia, Isabella and Simón Luis.

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