July 21, 2020

Paving the Road Towards Economic Recovery in Los Angeles County

COVID–19 has had a profound economic impact on Los Angeles County. According to the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), roughly 45.9% of jobs across multiple sectors that have strong roots in Los Angeles County are at high risk of loss due to COVID–19.

Throughout our nation's history, investment in infrastructure during economic downturns has reaped both immediate and long-term benefits. In the face of this crisis, the Board saw an opportunity and convened a group of private and public sector industry leaders to form the Los Angeles County Economic Resiliency Task Force.

The Task Force developed recommendations that leverage public and private investments to revive and reopen our economy with good paying jobs, while modernizing the region's infrastructure to be more sustainable and resilient.

The Task Force also identified Infrastructure LA, a regional forum managed by Public Works that engages collaboratively with all 88 cities and private sector partners, as the appropriate vehicle to advance active and anticipated infrastructure projects valued at \$105.3 billion.

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The County has a unique opportunity to build upon the work of the Task Force and strengthen its commitment to sustainability, equity, and resilience while creating a pathway for investment in a safe, healthy, and inclusive post COVID-19 future. And with the potential repeal of Proposition 209, it also has the time to develop more inclusive contracting practices.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- Direct the Department of Public Works to collaborate through Infrastructure LA and to report back in 45 days on the following:
 - a) Develop a plan with a list of shovel-ready infrastructure projects to keep people employed and sustain high-road jobs that lift workers out of poverty;
 - Identify funding partnerships with Local, State, and Federal government to accelerate job growth and serve as a pipeline to new jobs as trade and infrastructure investment grows;
 - c) Identify opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships on infrastructure projects to reinvigorate the County economy with a focus on clean energy, technology and manufacturing;
 - d) Develop a plan with the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to advocate for federal stimulus funds in infrastructure with direct local investment as a priority, to create good local jobs;
 - e) Develop a plan to re-start and expand successful apprenticeship programs that have been put on hold; build out and coordinate existing workforce development plans (for instance, the WHAM Workforce Development Workplan, the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS) LA County Works Initiative, the Youth

Bridges Program, and the OurCounty workforce development strategies and actions); and develop partnerships with schools and colleges to offer practical and sector related programs that will provide students with internships, apprenticeships, job placement, and related industry job skills and experience;

- f) Identify opportunities to leverage technology and communication platforms to support streamlined on-line transaction of government services, such as permitting, while ensuring inclusive services to underserved communities, small businesses, and communities with limited access;
- Direct the Department of Public Works to report back in 60 days on the following:
 - a) Develop implementable strategies in coordination with Departments of Public Health, Regional Planning, and Consumer and Business Affairs to address urban freight delivery challenges in the dense unincorporated commercial corridors and need for curbside access for small businesses and residences that rely heavily on curbside deliveries
 - b) Develop a plan to implement the Short-Term Goals and address the Major Issues and Challenges outlined in the Commodities and Goods Movement Sector of the Economic Resiliency Task Force Comprehensive Report

WE, FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the CEO, in conjunction with the Departments of Human Resources, Consumer and Business Affairs, Internal Services, Public Works, the Women and Girls Initiative, and the Small Business Taskforce, to prepare and report back in 60 days a Race and Gender Action plan related to the prospective repeal of Proposition 209. The plan should consider:

- 1. Conducting a disparity study, as applicable;
- 2. Applying race-conscious and gender-conscious goals;
- 3. Establishing a progressive Minority Business Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise program;
- 4. Reviewing and updating the Community Business Enterprise program;
- 5. Strengthening race and gender-based hiring and advancement;
- 6. Implementing targeted community engagement and empowerment

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