

## Chapter 3-10

### **An Ordinance Establishing An Additional Retail Transactions And Use Tax in the County of Los Angeles For Public Transit Purposes**

*(Preliminary Note: The ordinance set forth in Chapter 3-10 was originally enacted as Los Angeles County Transportation Commission Ordinance No. 49 and was adopted by a vote of the electorate as Proposition C in November 1990. It is incorporated here as enacted in 1990, except that, for convenience and consistency, its section headings and numbering have been revised to conform to the style of this Code. While the provisions of this ordinance may be cited by the section headings and numbering used herein, the official ordinance remains that enacted by the electorate in 1990. The inclusion of this ordinance in this Code is not a reenactment or an amendment of the original ordinance, and its inclusion in this Code does not in any way amend its provisions or alter its application.)*

A retail Transactions and Use Tax is hereby imposed in the County of Los Angeles as follows:

**3-10-010      Imposition of Retail Transactions Tax.** There is hereby imposed a tax for the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail upon every retailer in the County at a rate of one-half of one percent of the gross receipts of the retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in the County. This tax is in addition to the tax authorized by Ordinance No. 16, on August 20, 1980 [MTA Administrative Code, Chapter 3-05].

**3-02-020      Imposition of Use Tax.** There is hereby imposed a complementary tax upon the storage, use or other consumption in the County of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer for storage, use or other consumption in the County. Such tax shall be at a rate of one-half of 1% of the sales price of the property whose storage, use or other consumption is subject to the tax. This tax is in addition to the tax authorized by Ordinance No. 16, on August 20, 1980 [MTA Administrative Code, Chapter 3-05].

**3-10-030      Definitions.** The following words, whenever used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings as set forth below:

A.      “Commission” means the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission or any successor entity.

B. “County” means the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County of Los Angeles.

C. “Transaction” or “Transactions” have the same meaning, respectively, as the words “Sale” or “Sales”; and the word “Transactor” has the same meaning as “Seller”, as “Sale” or “Sales” and “Seller” are used in Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the revenue and Taxation Code.

D. “Public Transit Purposes” are expenditures which maintain, improve and expand public transit, reduce congestion, and increase mobility, and include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Transit and paratransit activities, including rail, bus and advanced technologies.
2. Fare Subsidies
3. Commuter Rail
4. Transit Centers
5. Park-and-Ride Lots
6. Public Information Services Technology and Systems
7. Freeway Bus Stations and Facilities
8. Rail and Bus Safety and Security
9. Maintenance of and Improvements to Streets and Highways used as public transit thoroughfares, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Coordination and synchronization of signalization
  - b. Provisions for prompt service to assist motorists with disabled automobiles or trucks
  - c. Construction of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes
  - d. Other activities which reduce congestion and improve air quality by providing transportation improvements to freeways, and state highways used

as public transit thoroughfares, including construction of transit ways including bus ways, carpool lanes, and operational and interchange improvements.

10. Transportation Systems Management and Transportation Demand Management

**3-10-040 Use of Revenues Received from Imposition of the Transactions and Use Tax.**

The revenues received by the Commission from the imposition of the transactions and use tax shall be used for public transit purposes, as follows:

A. Purpose of Tax. To improve transit service and operations, reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, efficiently operate and improve the condition of the streets and freeways utilized by public transit, and reduce foreign fuel dependence. The purposes of this tax include:

1. Meeting operating expenses; purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment or materials; meeting financial reserve requirements; obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas;
2. Increasing funds for the existing public transit service programs;
3. Instituting or increasing passenger or commuter services on rail or highway rights of way;
4. The continued development of a regional transportation improvement program.

B. Use of Revenues. A Los Angeles County Anti-Gridlock Transit Improvement fund will be created to supplement current transportation funds and help meet the documented shortfall in funds needed to complete the Los Angeles County transportation system.

1. Forty percent of the revenue from the ½ cent sales and use tax will be used to improve and expand rail and bus transit County-wide, to provide fare subsidies, increase graffiti prevention and removal, and increase energy-efficient, low-polluting

public transit service. Funds from this revenue source will not be used for capital improvements for the Metro Rail Project between Union Station and Hollywood.

2. Five percent of the revenue from the ½ cent sales and use tax will be used to improve and expand rail and bus security.

3. Ten percent of the revenue from the ½ cent sales and use tax will be used to increase mobility and reduce congestion by providing additional funds for Commuter Rail and the construction of Transit Centers, Park-and-Ride Lots, and Freeway Bus Stops.

4. Twenty percent of the revenue from the ½ cent sales and use tax will be a Local Return Program to be used by cities and the County for public transit, paratransit, and related services including to improve and expand supplemental paratransit services to meet the requirements of the Federal Americans With Disabilities Act. At the option of each city and of the County funds can be used consistent with the County's Congestion Management Program to increase safety and improve road conditions by repairing and maintaining streets heavily used by public transit. Transportation system and demand management programs are also eligible.

Funds for the Local Return Program will be allocated to the cities and the County on a per capita basis. Local Return funds not expended within three years will be returned to the Commission for reallocation. Local Return funds may not be traded or sold to other jurisdictions.

5. Twenty-five percent of the revenue from the ½ cents sales and use tax will be used to provide essential County-wide transit-related improvements to freeways and state highways. To facilitate transit flow, the operation of major streets and freeways will be improved by providing preference and priority for transit. Traffic signals may be synchronized, and coordinated and "Smart Street" corridors may be created on those corridors served by public transit. Transportation Systems Management techniques

which assist transit service may also be funded. Transportation improvements on freeways and State highways may include transit ways and other improvements to facilitate and expedite flow of transit and rideshare vehicles, and carpools.

6. The non-Local Return funds will be allocated in formula and discretionary programs basis to be developed and approved by the LACTC within six months of voter approval of this Ordinance. In no event shall administrative costs exceed one and one-half (1 ½ ) percent of the funds generated by the tax.

**3-10-050 Application of Sales and Use Tax Provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code.**

A. The provisions contained in Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code (Sales and Use Taxes, commencing with Section 6001), insofar as they relate to sales or use taxes and are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the revenue and Taxation Code (Transactions and Use Taxes), commencing with Section 7251), and all amendments thereto shall apply and be part of this Ordinance, being incorporated by reference herein, except that:

1. The Commission, as the taxing agency, shall be substituted for that of the State;

2. An additional transactor's permit shall not be required if a seller's permit has been or is issued to the transactor under Section 6067 of the revenue and Taxation Code; and

3. The word "County" shall be substituted for the word "State" in the phrase, "Retailer engaged in business in this State" in Section 6203 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and in the definition of that phrase.

B. A retailer engaged in business in the County shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchase of tangible personal property unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the County or participates within the County in making the sale of the property; including, but not limited to soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a

place of the retailer in the County or through any representative, agent, canvasser, solicitor, or subsidiary or person in the County under authority of the retailer.

**3-10-060 Adoption of Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 7261 and 7262.** Pursuant to the provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code Section 7262.2, the required provisions of Sections 7261 and 7262 of that Code as now in effect or as later amended are adopted by reference in this Ordinance.

**3-10-070 Place of Consummation of Retail Transaction.** For the purpose of a retail transaction tax imposed by this Ordinance, all retail transactions are consummated at the place of business of the retailer, unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to an out-of-State destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-State destination. The gross receipts for such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the State sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the State, or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated for the purpose of the transactions tax imposed by this Ordinance shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the State Board of Equalization.

**3-10-080 Appropriations Limit.** A Commission appropriations limit is hereby established equal to the revenues collected and allocated during the 1990/91 fiscal year plus an amount equal to one and a half times the taxes that would be levied or allocated on a one-half of one percent transaction and use tax in the first full fiscal year following enactment and implementation of this Ordinance.

**3-10-090 Division of Taxes.** This Ordinance imposes a one half of one percent transactions and use tax. Another measure imposing a one half percent transactions and use tax entitled the Local Communities Safety Act – Los Angeles County Regional Justice Facilities Financing Agency is scheduled to be submitted to the electorate in the same election as this Ordinance. If both measures are approved by the electorate, the limits of Revenue and Taxation Code Section

7251.1 would be exceeded. In the event that both measures are approved by a majority of the electors voting on the measures and both measures are otherwise valid, the transactions and use tax is to be divided equally with one fourth percent going to the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission for the purposes set forth in this Ordinance and one fourth percent going to the Los Angeles County Regional Justice Facilities Financing Agency for the purposes set forth in its Ordinance provided that legislation is enacted to authorize such a division.

However, if at some future time the statutory limit on sales tax is increased, then the full one half of one percent transactions and use tax shall be restored to each agency.

**3-10-100 Adoption and Enactment of Ordinance.** This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Commission and shall be enacted upon authorization of the electors voting in favor thereof at the special election called for November 6, 1990, to vote on the measure.

**3-10-110 Effective and Operative Dates.** This ordinance shall take effect on the day it is adopted by the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 130352 shall be operative on the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing not less than 180 days after adoption of the ordinance.

## **Chapter 3-15**

### **The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reform and Accountability Act of 1998**

*(Preliminary Note: The ordinance set forth Chapter 3-15 was originally enacted as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reform and Accountability Act of 1998 and was adopted by a vote of the electorate as Proposition A in November 1998. It is incorporated here as enacted in 1998, except that, for convenience and consistency, its section headings and numbering have been revised to conform to the style of this Code. While the provisions of this ordinance may be cited by the section headings and numbering used herein, the official ordinance remains that enacted by the electorate in 1998. The inclusion of this ordinance in this Code is not a reenactment or an amendment of the original ordinance, and its inclusion in this Code does not in any way amend its provisions or alter its application.)*

**3-15-010 Title.** This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reform and Accountability Act of 1998 (“Act”).