



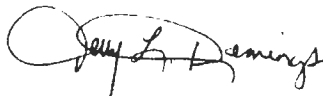
ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

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January 25, 2024

TO: Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1
Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero, District 4
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, District 5
Commissioner Michael Scott, District 6

FROM: Mayor Jerry L. Demings 

SUBJ: Transportation Sales Tax Work Session

Between 2020 and 2022, Orange County held over 300 meetings and community engagements, and collected over 19,000 surveys to gain input from residents on transportation needs as we sought to develop a plan to create a sustainable, multi-modal system. In 2020, we began efforts to place a referendum on the ballot to increase the sales tax to fund transportation but suspended those efforts due to the pandemic. In 2022, the Board approved placing a transportation sales tax referendum on the general election ballot. The referendum did not receive the 50% plus 1 threshold to pass, securing only 42% approval. This was due to various factors, including inflation, significant increases in housing costs, and the devastating impact of Hurricane Ian on more than 80,000 residents.

Transportation continues to be a challenge and will only get worse given the large influx of individuals moving to our community each year. With that in mind, I would like to have a discussion with commissioners at our February 6, 2024, Board of County Commissioners meeting to see whether there is interest in pursuing a potential transportation sales tax in 2024.

c: Phil Diamond, Comptroller
Byron Brooks, County Administrator
Roseann Harrington, Chief of Staff to Mayor Demings
Jeff Newton, County Attorney
Carla Bell Johnson, Deputy County Administrator
Jon Weiss, Deputy County Administrator
Lisa Snead, Assistant County Administrator
Joe Kunkel, Public Works Director
Natalia Garcia, County Administrator's Office