

South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone

Third Round



Lead Organization:

Los Angeles Trade –
Technical College

Population:

197,539

Poverty Rate:

45.59%

Unemployment Rate:

11.81%

Key Partners:

City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Coalition for Responsible Community Development, Community Coalition, L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, L.A. County Metropolitan Transit Authority, L.A. Urban League, Move L.A., University of Southern California

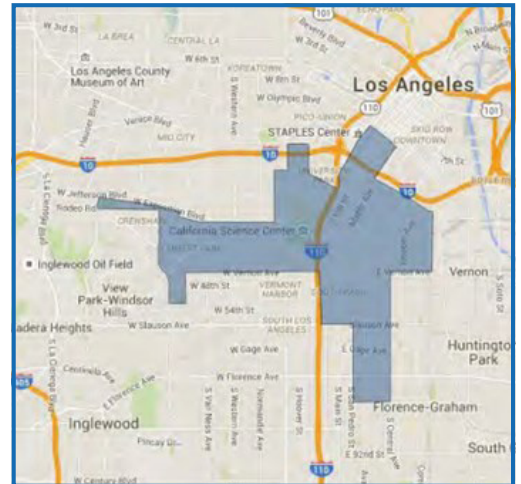
The South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) includes portions of the neighborhoods of Vernon-Central, South Park, Florence, Exposition Park, Vermont Square, Leimert Park and a small portion of Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw. Approximately 94 percent of SLATE-Z's residents are people of color – primarily Latino (71.2 percent) and African American (16.9 percent) – and there is a large immigrant population (42.7 percent foreign-born).

Among SLATE-Z residents, workforce participation is low, and many of these employed are working part-time jobs or in jobs without career opportunities. More than 44 percent of workers live at or below 150 percent of the poverty line. Barriers to work and to higher wage jobs include incarceration, disability, low educational attainment, language barriers and immigration status. The target area has also experienced a dramatic increase in gang-related crimes in recent years.

Still the Promise Zone benefits from a number of community assets. The Slate-Z team will prepare residents and businesses to take advantage of opportunities created by regional investments in the Blue Expo and Crenshaw light rail lines and in transit-oriented development projects around 15 stations planned for the zone.

The Slate-Z team includes more than 50 schools, service centers, business incubators, health clinics, community coalitions, and others that have all committed to revitalize South Los Angeles by addressing the following five goals:

- Create Jobs
- Increase Economic Activity
- Improve Educational Opportunities
- Reduce Violent Crime
- Enhance Community Infrastructure



“The SLATE-Z plan is rooted in strategies for ensuring physical and economic mobility for geographically and economically isolated communities. It will succeed by building strong public and private pathways between educational and job training agencies so more students receive a high quality education that leads to long term educational and career success. This investment in education will attract high growth sectors that create living wage jobs and align education, career, and job-training initiatives along South L.A.’s transit corridors. It also aims to build neighborhood economies, safer communities, and healthy families and individuals.”

Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Mayor