A SELECTED ROUTE MAP OF INITIATIVES TO SOLVE THE “CONGESTION PROBLEM” IN LOS ANGELES

A Timeline Prepared to Accompany “A Century of Fighting Traffic Congestion in Los Angeles”
Arthur Pigou proposes tolling as a means of diverting traffic from a theoretical high-quality road onto a lower-quality but underutilized alternative route.

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The Wall Street Crash of 1929 signals the beginning of the Great Depression.

BD Greenshields publishes *A Study of Traffic Capacity* showing the relationship between speed, density, and flow in the traffic stream.

City officials enact a ban on parking in the congested downtown core, which is over-turned when irate drivers stage a protest. A partial parking ban is introduced for the holiday season the following year.

Report and Recommendations on a Comprehensive Rapid Transit Plan for the City of Los Angeles, calling for the construction of 26.1 miles of subway and 85.3 miles of elevated railways, is released.

A system of year-round afternoon parking bans is instituted in Downtown LA.

Figueroa Tunnels completed

Arroyo Seco Parkway completed

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the Federal-Aid Highways Act, which initiated postwar spending on roads.

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World War II ends with V-E and V-J days.

Indictment of the bus transit monopoly National City Lines

The first Sigalert is broadcast.

Pacific Electric (Red Cars) ceases passenger service.

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce publishes Destination ’70, a ten-year plan with an emphasis on mass rapid transit.

Los Angeles Railway (LARy, Yellow Cars) formally ends operations.

Voters defeat Proposition A, a proposed half-cent sales tax to fund rail transit.

The Collier-Burns Highway Act is passed, committing California fuel tax revenue to the building of rural roads and urban freeways.

Voters defeat a Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce-backed ballot measure, titled Rail Rapid Transit Now. The measure would have built an underground and elevated rail transit system.

President Eisenhower signs the Federal Aid Highway Act including major financial incentives for states to build new highway routes.

Los Angeles purchases a TRW-300 computer, “the nation’s first use of a digital computer by a city for traffic signal control.”

Smeed Report, which recommends congestion charging in London, is published.

Long-Term Trend (early ’50s on): As the effects of freeways on local communities grew clear in the late 1940’s, local pushback termed highway or freeway “revolts” began to sink or delay highway projects across California.
Calvin Hamilton publishes *Concept, Los Angeles*, describing a polycentric city with regional centers.

Environmental Protection Agency created

Singapore implements its Area Licensing Scheme, the first successful urban congestion pricing program.

Computer Transportation Services, Inc. (better known as Commuter Computer), begins operations to help LA area drivers carpool.

Prop A, a half-cent transportation sales tax, passes after earlier failures to pass transportation ballot measures in 1974 and 1976.

Prop U passes.

Prop C passes.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change passes first report affirming human-driven climate change.

First LA Metro Rail line, the A line (Blue), opens.

El Monte Busway opens.

The term “telecommuting” is coined by futurist Jack Nilles.

First 1970’s energy crisis caused by OPEC oil embargo against the United States.

The first “diamond” (or HOV) lanes are implemented on the Santa Monica Freeway (I-405).

Prop 13 passes.

LA hosts the XXIII Olympiad, during which ATSAC, LA DOT’s modern traffic computer, is unveiled.

Mayor Tom Bradley announces an eight-point plan to make Los Angeles traffic flow as smoothly as it had during the Olympics, which a contemporary study attributed to short-term, voluntary accommodations.

Pathfinder, an early telematics scheme for traffic information, is trialled.

Merger of the Southern California Rapid Transit District and the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission to form the modern Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
HOT lanes open on SR-91.

Google introduces Google Maps.

Waze is founded in Israel as Freemap Israel.

California's state legislature authorizes a pilot program to explore mileage-based user fees.

London implements congestion charging, 39 years after the recommendations of the Smeed report.

Lyft is founded in California as Zimride.

Demo '97, a showcase of early automated vehicle technology, held on I-15 north of San Diego.

Measure R passes.

Angelenos brace for "Carmageddon" to snarl traffic, though short term behaviour adjustments avert the worst fears.

Express Lanes open on Interstates 10 and 110.

LA Metro launches first regional transit pass program, EZPass.

Measure M passes.

SCAG report recommends five cordoned "Go Zones" for further study in congestion pricing.

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