

Created for the United States Conference of Mayors

This video celebrates the accomplishments of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and his service as President of the United States Conference of Mayors (2011-2012). The program tells the story of how he overcame a troubled youth and poverty to lead his city and America's mayors. And it highlights his major contributions to urban and national policy initiatives. I wrote the script and edited the program.

<p>Tom Cochran on camera followed by scenes of Mayor Villaraigosa with the people of LA</p>	<p>TC: Los Angeles...a cultural capital... dynamic... industrious... welcoming people from all over the world.</p> <p>And home to one of America's great mayors... Antonio Villaraigosa. A strong leader... bringing people together ... creating jobs... improving schools... keeping communities safe.</p> <p>Like the city he loves... a man of energy and innovation. And an inspiration to us all... as President of the United States Conference of Mayors.</p>
<p>From the Mayor's USCM inaugural speech</p>	<p>AV: There's a magic when mayors stand together. Let's unleash that magic. Let's send a message to Washington: its time to stop playing games and start doing the hard work of the American people.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran on camera</p>	<p>TC: Yes, there's magic when mayors stand together. But as a young person, Antonio Villaraigosa faced hard times and had to create his own magic.</p>
<p>From the sitdown interview</p>	<p>TC: Mr. Mayor- let's go back and look at you as a young person.</p>

<p>From the sitdown interview</p>	<p>TC: Mr. Mayor- let's go back and look at you as a young person.</p> <p>AV: I'm here today because I had a great mom who believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself... I did well in school early on. And then kind of went wayward. Got kicked out of school. And went back thankfully because of my mom and a great teacher Herman Katz.</p>
<p>Stills of the Mayor with school kids</p>	<p>AV: (continues) And that's why I'm so passionate about public education. I say to people that Catholic school gave me a foundation, but it was a public school that gave me a second chance.</p>
<p>The Mayor visits a classroom</p>	<p>Mayor Villaraigosa Do you believe in you? Class I believe in me. Mayor Villaraigosa Do you believe in you? Class I believe in me.</p>

Tom Cochran	<p>We know the Mayor is passionate about improving academic performance, both for children and for schools. And he's making a difference. Under his leadership, twice as many schools have met the State's tough educational standards. And as President of the United States Conference of Mayors, he's led the way in education.</p>
The Mayor visits a classroom	<p>AV: If we're going to lead great cities, those great cities have to have great public schools as an anchor.</p>
Andrea Mitchell (from Andrea Mitchell Reports)	<p style="text-align: center;">Andrea Mitchell</p> <p>This morning I shared a stage with three of the nation's most prominent mayors from the biggest cities: Chicago's Rohm Emanuel, New York's Michael Bloomberg and Antonio Villaraigosa from Los Angeles for a conversation on the state of America's Classrooms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mayor Villaraigosa</p> <p>This is the economic issue of our time, the civil rights issue of our time and the democracy issue of our time. I do believe that mayors have to spearhead the effort to reform our schools. That we have to put parents and teachers first. That we have to focus as much on the kids as the</p>

	adults. And that's something you've heard all across here.
Tom Cochran	TC: Along with improving schools, he's launched a campaign to keep neighborhoods safe, with more police and an innovative gang reduction program. They call the program Summer Night Lights. And mayors are following his lead with similar programs in their own cities.
Mayors Tour Summer Night Lights. Mayor Villaraigosa talks to high school kids training to become police officers	Mayor Villaraigosa Good to see you. Thank you for being here. You look great. I'm proud of you. Stay in school, right? Every one.
Tom Cochran	TC: He opened the parks at night, filled them with activities and got police, families and community leaders involved. And gang violence is down and LA is safer.
Mayors tour Summer Night Lights	AV: We needed to do something different. And we have... We have a very robust prevention program that focuses on the kids who are at most risk.
Mayors tour Summer Night Lights activities	TC: At our Summer Leadership Meeting, Mayor Villaraigosa led a tour

	<p>of mayors to see how the city is meeting his promise to keep neighbourhoods safe.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran (scenes of city traffic)</p>	<p>TC: As President of the United States Conference of Mayors, Mayor Villaraigosa made his number one priority America’s transportation infrastructure.</p>
<p>From the Mayor’s USCM inaugural speech</p>	<p>AV: Now in too many of our cities, job growth is being choked by traffic and saddled by a sagging infrastructure. We need to say now is the time to put millions of people back to work, by making long overdue investments in our future infrastructure needs. We need to tell Congress to press the button on “America Fast Forward”</p>
<p>Tom Cochran and Mayor Villaraigosa on the platform of the Exposition Line</p>	<p>TC: “America Fast Forward” will help revitalize our cities and more than 200 mayors have signed on. In Los Angeles, Mayor Villaraigosa spear-headed a half-penny sales tax to fund a light rail system. Phase One opened in April and we took a ride on the new EXPO line.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran and Mayor Villaraigosa riding the EXPO Line</p>	<p>Mayor Villaraigosa We’ve got to make these investments in</p>

	<p>our roads, our highways, our public transportation system. And that's really what "America Fast Forward" is all about.</p>
<p>Mayor Villaraigosa with workers on the station platform</p>	<p>Mayor Villaraigosa How are you enjoying this? Are you guys enjoying this</p> <p>Workers Yes, sir! It's beautiful.</p> <p>Mayor Villaraigosa It's beautiful. And we're going to do a lot more man.</p> <p>Worker I can't wait until the rest of this opens up.</p> <p>Mayor Villaraigosa That's why we're here. Measure R is going to double the size of the rail system baby.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran and Mayor Villaraigosa on the platform of the Exposition Line</p>	<p>TC: I asked Mayor Villaraigosa to share how this could work for other mayors.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran and Mayor Villaraigosa on the platform of the Exposition Line, looking at the map</p>	<p>Tom Cochran What advice to mayors to get something done, like this?</p> <p>Mayor Villaraigosa Get behind good public policy... We were able to make the case that this was an investment. That this was an investment: that would change the landscape, that</p>

	<p>would give people alternatives to the single passenger automobile, that would clean up the air and protect the public health. That would address carbon emissions and climate change and importantly, very importantly, create 152,000 jobs...</p> <p>Tom Cochran</p> <p>And so you had a coalition, to get this Measure R passed, right?</p> <p>Mayor Villaraigosa</p> <p>That's right. An absolute coalition. It's all about coalitions, my friend.</p>
<p>Press Conference with Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. John Mica, Richard Trumka of the AFLCIO and Tom Donohue of the US Chamber of Commerce in support of America Fast Forward</p>	<p>TC: With Mayor Villaraigosa's leadership, we took "America Fast Forward" to Congress. It's now a key part of the Surface Transportation Bill. The Senate has passed it. And he brought together a bipartisan group to continue the effort.</p>
<p>Tom Donohue, US Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>TD: To be competitive in a global market, to put people back to work, we have got to go out and put a great infusion of energy and money into our infrastructure and create the jobs that America needs.</p>
<p>Richard Trumka, AFLCIO</p>	<p>RT: Working people desperately need initiatives like these: that take our country</p>

Richard Trumka, AFLCIO	RT: Working people desperately need initiatives like these: that take our country in the right direction. The fast forward direction.
Mayor Scott Smith speaking	SS: Here we had the Republican leader of the House Transportation, the Senate leader of transportation issues over there and both the Chamber of Commerce and the AFLCIO all together Kumbuyaing it. And there was only one reason they were there and that was because of the efforts of Antonio Villaraigosa.
Meeting with Nancy Pelosi and Democratic House leaders, Mayor Villaraigosa speaks	AV: We put together a “Common Sense Jobs Agenda...”
Tom Cochran	TC: He’s also building coalitions to put people back to work with the United States Conference of Mayors “Common Sense Jobs Agenda.”
Meeting with Nancy Pelosi and Democratic House leaders, Nancy Pelosi speaks	NP: I thank all of you for what you do. I thank Mayor Villaraigosa and Mayor Nutter for their tremendous, tremendous great leadership. For being resources to us and for helping our proposals echo yours, and now put forward by the President of the United States. (holding up document) Thank you for this magnificent Common

<p>Stills of the Mayor meeting with President Obama and video of meeting with Nancy Pelosi and Democratic House leaders</p>	<p>AV: (10.13.20) That Common Sense Jobs Agenda is a blue print for putting people back to work.... It's a nonpartisan, bipartisan effort to restore our cities. To make sure that we're doing what we can to build our infrastructure and our transportation system to provide for the revenues that we need to get us moving ahead again.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran</p>	<p>TC: One part of our Common Sense Jobs agenda is encouraging tourism. And America's cities are the center for arts and culture. So mayors and cultural officials from over 50 countries came to New Orleans for the first World Cultural Economic Forum.</p>
<p>World Cultural Economic Forum Mayor Villaraigosa speaking</p>	<p>AV: Creativity is at home in America's cities. And the world is taking notice. The world is coming to America. In 2010, the United States welcomed more than 15 million international cultural and heritage visitors.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran</p>	<p>TC: We all know that cities need to compete in the global marketplace. For Mayor Villaraigosa, that means leveraging his city's assets: modernizing their airport and</p>

	<p>revitalizing and greening their seaport, the largest in the United States. And the national media took notice.</p>
<p>(CNN on Anderson Cooper 360)</p>	<p>Mayor Villaraigosa</p> <p>This port in LA and Longbeach, moves about 44% of all the seaborne goods into the United States.</p> <p>It is the economic engine of the region and one of the economic engines of the country.</p>
<p>(CNN State of the Union with Candy Crowley)</p>	<p>Candy Crowley</p> <p>You have sort of a wide variety of things that you're doing to try to create immediate jobs and set the stage for jobs of the future. It's not just this airport. It's the sidewalks and the streets of Los Angeles. You're trying to attract businesses in by proposing more cuts in city taxes for establishing a business here.</p> <p>Mayor Villaraigosa</p> <p>I think what the people in our country and certainly in our city are looking for are leaders that get things done.</p>
<p>Tom Cochran</p>	<p>TC: Mayor Villaraigosa created the Taskforce on Exports and Ports to capitalize on new business opportunities and jobs. In Jacksonville he shared his ideas with mayors and</p>

	local business leaders at the National Leadership Meeting on Exports and Ports.
In Jacksonville, speaking to mayors	<p>Mayor Villaraigosa</p> <p>We've got to do the smart things, make the smart investments in ports and airports and our roads, our bridges and our highways and our cities which generate 90% of the GDP.</p> <p>That means we have to work together, even if it means we're all competing for market share as a result. We have to put the country first.</p>
Tom Cochran	TC: If we're going to create jobs here, we need to help our companies reach new markets abroad. Less than 1% of America's companies export their goods and services. So Mayor Villaraigosa took me to WET Design, a local hi tech company that creates incredible water experiences around the world.
Tom Cochran and Mayor Villaraigosa in conversation at WET Design	AV: Look, the growth markets are outside of the nation. We've got to tap those markets. We can create jobs in our cities by developing technologies and goods and products that we take around the world.

(Touring WET Design), CEO Mark Fuller speaks	MF: The mayor put together a business trip recently, invited us to come along with him. And it was, you know, when you're traveling with the mayor of Los Angeles, it opens doors to that you just wouldn't otherwise have access to. Mayor Villaraigosa, he is the greatest. He gets it. He's a can-do person.
Tom Cochran and Mayor Villaraigosa in conversation at WET Design	AV: We've got great places in the United States of America. Great places in LA. Great places in every one of the cities of our mayors that our mayors represent, we got to sell our cities to the world.
On MSNBC with Alex DeWitt	AV: What I've said to Democrats and Republicans alike is that job number one is putting people back to work.
At the 79 th Annual Meeting in Baltimore Press Conference	AV: We don't understand not investing in America's workers, and their transportation networks, in airports and ports that will generate the trade that we need..
At the USCM Winter Meeting	AV: You can't cut your way out of this crisis. You've got to make investments, too. You've got to make investments in infrastructure. You've got to make

	<p>investments in police and fire to keep our cities safer. You've got to make investments in our schools. You've got to make investments that produce dividends at the end of the rainbow.</p>
<p>On ABC World News with Diane Sawyer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Diane Sawyer</p> <p>Are you crazy optimists? Do people ask you what you've been drinking?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mayor Villaraigosa</p> <p>The question is, what are they drinking? What is the Congress drinking, when they don't realize that the number one issue is the economy and job creation?</p>
<p>Mayor Villaraigosa at the Los Angeles Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>AV: We represent about 84% of the population, 90% of the economic output of the nation, 86% of the jobs that are going to be created in the next year... And what's represented here (gesturing to the assembled mayors) are the people who ultimately have the job of putting people back to work.</p>
<p>From the sitdown interview</p>	<p>MV: We've done a lot in the last year. And I think it started out, when we were bold enough to come together on a bipartisan basis ...about investing in our cities again. About investing in</p>

<p>From the sitdown interview</p>	<p>MV: We've done a lot in the last year. And I think it started out, when we were bold enough to come together on a bipartisan basis ...about investing in our cities again. About investing in transportation. And infrastructure. In education. In work force development. In putting people to work. That was a defining moment for us.</p>
<p>Mayor Don Plusquellic</p>	<p>DP: It was a great thing to be able to see him and watch him actually go out there and represent us very, very well.</p>
<p>Mayor Mitch Landrieu</p>	<p>ML: The other thing he's done that I'm really so proud of is basically sent the message to the rest of the country that, look, cities are the places where things happen.</p>
<p>Mayor Scott Smith</p>	<p>SS: Mayor Villaraigosa said okay, let's forge ahead, let's come up with some solutions. Let's figure out how we as cities can solve problems with or without Washington. And that's the kind of leadership that's not only effective but it's needed in these times.</p>
<p>From the sitdown interview</p>	<p>MV: This job- mayor of LA- there will never be a better job. I love my job. I am</p>

Tom Cochran	TC: Mayor Villaraigosa ... bringing people together and creating opportunity ... for jobs... transportation... ports... education... and public safety. A strong voice for cities and a great leader for the United States Conference of Mayors. We thank you for your leadership and service. Thank you Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.
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