

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – May 18, 2016

Attachment A

Attendees: Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); Akbar Farokhi & Alan Leung (Hawthorne); Louis Atwell (Inglewood); Miguel Alvarez & Frank Senteno (Lawndale); Wisam Altowaiji, Didar Khandker, Ted Semaan & Brad Lindahl (Redondo Beach); Rob Beste, IWG Chair (Torrance); Jimmy Shih & Kelly Lamare (Caltrans); Josie Gutierrez & Andres Narvaez (LACODPW); Isidro Panuco (MTA); Rosemary Lackow, David Leger, Steve Lantz & Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG); Dina Saleh (Iteris); Tracey Zuliani (Port of Los Angeles)

Vice Chair Stephanie Katsouleas called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

I. Self-Introductions and Approval of April 13, 2016 Minutes – Minutes approved as submitted.

II. Agency & Other Reports

- **SBCCOG** – Jacki Bacharach made the following announcements:
 - **South Bay Broadband Network**, a Request for Proposals will be going out on 5/18/2016 to conduct a feasibility study. Funding was received through the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) because this is an economic development strategy. The goal is to increase the South Bay’s communication network capacity to entice new high tech firms to come to the region and also to ensure those already in the area remain. Ms. Bacharach announced that when a consultant is obtained, sometime around July 2016, the consultant should be reaching out to the SBCCOG cities to see what network projects they are working on, what projects they have planned, and how it may be possible to work collaboratively on the project(s). There will most likely be a workshop on this sometime in September or October.
 - **PATH**, the SBCCOG is working with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) to help with providing services to the homeless in the South Bay. Ms. Bacharach showed the group the PATH postcards that contain a hotline phone number that will connect homeless people with resources/services. People may call the hotline when they see a homeless person, or they may give the postcard to the person. Ms. Bacharach announced that PATH has already placed one person in permanent housing and a few others in temporary housing.
 - **Tour of Long Beach Container Terminal**, Ms. Bacharach announced a likely tour of the Long Beach Container Terminal in July or August.
 - **General Assembly**, Ms. Bacharach touched on the successful General Assembly that took place in February and asked the group to contact her with new General Assembly topics.
- **South Bay Highway Program Administrative Changes** - Steve Lantz announced the arrival of new SBCCOG staff member, David Leger. He is succeeding Marcy Hiratzka as the administrative analyst for the South Bay Highway Program and Assistant SBCCOG Board Secretary.
- **South Bay Traffic Forum, LA County DPW** – Andres Narvaez distributed the South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report for May 2016. Mr. Narvaez announced that LACDPW is currently troubleshooting cameras installed in the South Bay Fiber Interconnect along Artesia Blvd, Vermont Ave, Manchester Ave, Western Ave, and Manhattan Beach Blvd. Mr. Narvaez announced that there will be a training program at the Torrance City Public Works Yard on June 2, 2016. He also updated the group on the status of L. A. County’s Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (TSSP) Projects. He announced that preconstruction meetings were held on May 9th (Aviation Blvd project) and April 28th (Crenshaw Blvd project). Mr. Narvaez informed the group that the MOU Amendment for the Prairie Avenue project was fully executed on March 29th. Two projects will be postponed (El Segundo Blvd and Rosecrans Ave).
- **Caltrans - Update:** Jimmy Shih announced an ITS project workshop on June 8th. They are trying to get input from all the local agencies about their traffic signal designs. Isidro Panuco asked if the SBCCOG could host the workshop. Steve Lantz told the group that the SBCCOG will host the workshop and send out information. The purpose of this workshop is for the Public Works and Traffic Engineers to meet with Caltrans to discuss their design and how it would interface with their local signal system design. All cities that should attend.

Steve Lantz added that this is very important because the SBCCOG has been asking Caltrans to work with cities upfront on the scope of work for their study. They’ve completed the Caltrans design for the ramps for this project and have asked for more money to complete the project. Mr. Lantz said that they have been told no at this point, but that the cities need to be coordinated with them so this not a Caltrans signal system that is dropped onto local cities. Mr. Lantz said that this cannot be a Caltrans project only, and must integrate local cities.

Steve Lantz also announced that the SBCCOG has contracted with Lan Saadatnejadi for six months to work with local Caltrans and Sacramento Caltrans staff to use the South Bay as the model for the State to expedite and improve the permitting and coordination process when local jurisdictions seek to work on state highways.

- **L. A. Metro Updates**

- **L.A. Metro Board** - Isidro Panuco reminded the group that Metro is concluding an extensive outreach and public information process throughout the county regarding the proposed ballot measure expenditure plan and what it means for people in those areas. Mr. Panuco added that it is expected that the proposed ballot measure and expenditure plan will go before the Metro Board in June. Additionally, Mr. Panuco will be recommending the new projects that he received from the SBCCOG Board for future Measure R projects. Mr. Panuco added that he has already received some Scopes of Work and will get those before the Board as expeditiously as possible.

III. **Measure R / Sales Tax Measure Updates**

- **Metro’s Sales Tax Measure: SBCCOG Concerns**

Steve Lantz and Jacki Bacharach explained to the group the SBCCOG’s current concerns with the Proposed Ballot Measure (PBM), which are detailed below. They have been working with other COGs in the County to work with Metro to address these common concerns. Chair Beste added that if cities are going to write their own letters to Metro, public comment is due by May 20th, and that the content should match the themes raised in the SBCCOG letter to Metro. He stressed that a unified voice is key. The themes recommended are:

16% for Local Return is inadequate: In its current form, the PBM includes Local Return at 16%, which the SBCCOG and other COGs feel is inadequate. The SBCCOG has consistently advocated that 25% of all tax revenues from the prospective measure be returned to the cities in the form of Local Return. If the Local Return allocation were raised, this would also allow cities to fund projects to address storm water issues. The Local Return program should allow cities the broadest possible flexibility to meet their specific local mobility, safety, sustainability, and state-of-good-repair needs.

No Earmarks: The SBCCOG believes that local decisions should be made at the most local level possible. For this reason, the SBCCOG strongly encouraged Metro to refrain from establishing any earmarks within the Local Return program.

Revised Local Return Funding Formula: The SBCCOG believes the current Local Return funding formula based solely on population is inequitable to cities such as El Segundo that have low residential populations but high daytime employment populations. SBCCOG has asked Metro to revise the existing Local Return formula in an equitable way that will aid cities with large transportation issues and small populations. As an example, the SBCCOG requested Metro to consider a Local Return allocation based on 1/3 lane miles, 1/3 population and 1/3 sales tax generated from the local jurisdiction similar to the formula currently used by the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Accelerate the Green Line South Extension: SBCCOG has worked with Metro for nearly a decade to expedite delivery of the Green Line South Extension to Torrance. SBCCOG has asked Metro to accelerate this Measure R project commitment to allow completion of the environmental approval and design processes by 2018 so that construction can be completed within the first decade of the PBM.

Continuing Local Return with No Sunset: Metro is advocating that the PBM includes a sunset provision (in 2057, 2064, or 2067). However, the agency has also included a provision stating that a significant share of the PBM revenues (¼-cent of the ½-cent sales tax) would continue indefinitely after the Measure sunsets to maintain Metro’s system in a state of good repair and for Metro’s debt service. Given the ongoing need to fund and maintain local streets and local transit, SBCCOG would like to see the other ¼ cent of the PBM remain indefinitely and be dedicated to local jurisdictions for Local Streets and Transit State of Good Repair and local debt service. As an option, the SBCCOG also would support elimination of the proposed PBM sunset provision with an assurance that the Local Return and Sub-regional Programs would continue indefinitely consistent with the SBCCOG-recommended PBM revenue allocation design.

Continue Successful Sub-regional Programs: The South Bay Highway Program (SBHP) is a model sub-regional partnership between Metro, Caltrans, the SBCCOG and eligible South Bay local jurisdictions. The SBCCOG strongly supports continuation of the SBHP for the duration of the PBM to reduce delays and improve safety on our South Bay highway network. The SBCCOG also recognizes that the PBM must address the evolving need to provide a sustainable sub-regional and local mobility network that is accessible to all modes. As a result, the SBCCOG appreciates Metro’s PBM inclusion of the South Bay Transportation System and Mobility Improvements line item that will allow the South Bay to undertake a more flexible range of initiatives than is possible in the SBHP and to improve access to emerging activity centers in the sub-region.

- **SBHP Project Progress – Financial Risk Report** – Received and filed. Dina Saleh, of Iteris, mentioned that David Leger will

be sending out report reminders from now on. Steve Lantz added that David will also be looking more in depth at the reports, looking for progress being made, issues that are keeping progress from happening, and ways the SBCCOG may assist to overcome those issues.

- **Three-Month Look Ahead** (Attachment B) – Received and Filed. Steve Lantz told the group that in June, there will be information on the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts, where funding may be found for projects that are currently only looking at the California Investment Bank for funding.

IV. SBHP Project Funding Agreement Extension Appeals

-City of Redondo Beach

- o **312.20 Approve a one-year funding agreement extension conditioned on completion of design by October 2016 and a project progress review at that time.**
- o **312.06 Approve a one-year funding agreement extension for Phase 1 conditioned on completion of Phase 1 design by March 2017; Defer approval of Phase 2 schedule until project progress can be confirmed in March 2017.**

Ted Semaan: The City of Redondo Beach in their initial request to the SBCCOG asked for a 1.5-year extension on project 312.20. This project is well into design phase and design should be completed in the next few months. They have also started the right of way acquisition process. The City requested a 2.5-year extension on the second project (312.06) in their letter to the SBCCOG. This project is a little more behind schedule. They have proposals and are looking to go to the City Council at their June 7th meeting to start the design process. The City is requesting the IWG support their request for a 1.5-year extension and a 2.5-year extension.

Steve Lantz clarified that the IWG is an advisory committee and their comments will be reported to the Steering Committee for a recommendation to the SBCCOG Board. Mr. Lantz said that historically, projects that are not progressing have been de-obligated, deferred, or allowed to continue. Mr. Lantz said that the question on a 2.5-year extension is “why not defer the project for now and program the money to something else?” The concern that Metro has is that by delaying the projects, it is requiring Metro to sit on money that they cannot otherwise use for other projects in the South Bay. These projects are projects that the cities committed to completing in the first 5 years and asking them to be extended into year 6 and 7 may be asking more of Metro than Metro would agree to. Mr. Lantz said that money can be moved from year to year within a funding agreement, but what cannot be done is move money past a date that the funding agreement expires. Isidro Panuco added that this process is standard for Metro and is uniform across all their programs.

Isidro Panuco added that perhaps they could commit to an achievable milestone in the next year. Metro does not want to say “no you cannot move forward on this project”, but that they are facilitating an extension of the funds based on the city’s ability to achieve progress within the next year. In a year from now, they will re-asses the progress made and determine from there if enough progress has been made.

The final recommendation from the IWG to the Steering Committee is: Where a funding agreement is expiring, an amendment to that funding agreement would be issued with a contingency that explains the progress that will be made in the next year. There will be a provision in that amendment that if the contingency is met, then a second amendment to complete the project will be allowed. If that contingency is not met, then it would have to come back to the SBCCOG for the next step. If the milestone is met prior to the year deadline, the city may come back for a second amendment sooner.

-City of Lawndale

- o **312.15 Defer project at this time, but do not de-obligate funding at this time. Determine whether SBHP funds can be de-obligated and review project progress in October 2016.**

The City of Lawndale did not appeal the Steering Committee recommendation.

V. Project Spotlight: Metro ExpressLanes Update

Kathleen McCune presented on behalf of Metro highlighted the status of Metro’s ExpressLanes program. She touched on the following aspects of the project: Transit Station Improvements, Transit Service Improvements, Low Income Assistance Plan,

Carpool Loyalty Program, TAP Rewards, “MEL” Mobile Van, and Net Toll Reinvestment.

Highlights of the presentation include: over 500,000 transponders in circulation, over 460,000 individual accounts opened (including 9,135 low income assistance plan accounts), and future plans to bring automated vehicle occupancy detection and upgraded transponder technologies to the program.

The full presentation can be viewed on the SBCCOG website at:

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_Metro%20ExpressLanes.pdf

- VI. **Announcements & Adjournment** – Vice Chair Katsouleas adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm until June 15, 2016 (Public meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz (steve@southbaycities.org) by June 6, 2016.