

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Breakfast with Legislative District Staff

Wednesday, July 10, 2014

8:00 am – 9:30 am

MINUTES

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Theatre
20285 Western Avenue
Torrance, California 90501

Chair Jim Goodhart called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

Flag Salute & Call to Order & Introductions - The Flag Salute and Call to Order was conducted by Chair Jim Goodhart.

The following individuals introduced themselves and were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Michael Dugan, El Segundo
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne
Mark Waronek, Lomita
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates
Jim Knight, Rancho Palos Verdes
Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates
Pat Furey, Torrance

City Staff

Greg Carpenter, El Segundo
David Patterson, Hawthorne
Michael Goodson, Hawthorne
Gregg McClain, Hawthorne
Michael Rock, Lomita
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

Legislative Representatives

Maurice Lyles, Senator Boxer
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Waxman
Robert Pullen-Miles, Senator Lieu
Bill Orton, Senator Wright
Myla Rahman, Assembly Member
Bradford
MyLoc Dinh, Assembly Member Muratsuchi

Other Agencies

Stan Myles, AQMD
Matthew Garth, CA Association of Realtors
Pat Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Jackie Bacharach, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Locklow, SBCCOG
Chris Cagle, South Bay Workforce Investment Board
Nick Schultz, Pacific Gateway

SBCCOG Work Program Update

Energy

Jacki disseminated a PowerPoint on the Work Program for the SBCCOG. Jacki mentioned the Energy Efficiency Management Systems (EEMIS) and stated that the SBCCOG is collecting some findings on the program. Jacki discussed how cities are paying electrical accounts, which have no energy or uses somebody else's electrical account and that the program is finding annual monetary savings

for cities. EEMIS is helping cities to find out what they're doing and how to do it more efficiently to contribute to cost savings. At the next Legislative Briefing, Jacki will provide hard-dollar information regarding the city savings. Jacki shared that the SBCCOG received the Strategic Growth Council Grant for \$1 million over the next three years. Through the grant, there will be climate action planning that cities will be able to use, including energy, transportation, and land-use. Currently, the SBCCOG is waiting on a letter from the State regarding the budget and scope of the project and which will commence tentatively in January 2015, pending further negotiations. Jacki shared information on the SBCCOG Geothermal Grant Application and how UC Davis' Geothermal Institute approached the SBCCOG regarding this proposal. The Institute identified that there may be potential geothermal energy in the South Bay. The SBCCOG will use the data from UC Davis to find out how rich those resources are and the potential opportunities, which will be shared with member cities to decide if they want to proceed. Jacki further shared that the SBCCOG/SBESC has been attempting to partner with the Department of Water and Power (DWP) in order to provide the COG's services to the San Pedro and Los Angeles areas and is currently negotiating with DWP to begin a partnership by fall. Lastly, Jacki shared information on the SBCCOG Holiday Light Exchange and the shortage of available holiday lights. In the past, the SBCCOG would receive funding from Southern California Edison and is now seeking sponsorship, which will provide sponsor publicity.

Transportation

Jacki discussed how Metro is funding the Mobility Matrix, which lists sub regional projects. The South Bay is ahead due to the Measure R Highway Program and the existing list of Measure R projects. Jacki mentioned that cities in the Palos Verdes Peninsula, which are not part of Measure R, should work with the SBCCOG in identifying projects because Metro is discussing another sales tax in 2016, which will use the Mobility Matrix lists to figure out what kind of a sales tax to have for the sub regions. The SBCCOG has stated to Metro that it will not support the sales tax, but wants to make sure that the list is robust. Jacki discussed using the Neighborhoods First approach to identify if there is a need for more funding for street maintenance, local transit, etc., since the previous sales tax focused more on a regional system and the SBCCOG wants to ensure that the sales tax takes into account local issues.

Jacki mentioned the LAX Rail connections and the impacts of how the rail comes into the South Bay and how the SBCCOG is monitoring the service to the South Bay to ensure that it is not affected when the rail comes into the area. Jacki stated that Metro has a policy that any overruns at LAX will be charged to the sub region that LAX is located in, which in this case is the South Bay. Jacki stated that this is zoning is inaccurate and that the SBCCOG is working with Metro to address this problem so that the South Bay is not held responsible for overruns at LAX, since this is a regional issue.

Toll Lanes were discussed; primarily, Jacki shared that I-110 is now a permanent toll lane and that I-405, I-605 and I-105 are also being considered for toll lanes. The SBCCOG is monitoring Metro and their studies on toll lanes from Orange County to LAX and how Metro would construct it. Jacki mentioned that the SBCCOG is monitoring the Harbor Gateway Transit Center, which is owned by

the State. The SBCCOG wants the center turned over to Metro so that there is more assurance that the center is better serviced, since Metro has made refurbishments, although its not owned by Metro. Lastly, Jacki discussed Car2Go and how car sharing provides an opportunity to get cars off the road in the South Bay. Car2Go did agree to provide services with 5 cities that approved for such services within their jurisdiction. Jacki shared that SoCal ROC did not make it into the Governor's Budget. Regarding Senior Services, Jacki shared that the SBCCOG started a Senior Services Working Group Committee to address the growing needs of seniors in the South Bay. The two meetings previously held for the Senior Working Group focused on transportation services in the South Bay, including peer-to-peer transportation and the Village Concept, which provide services for seniors in their homes currently used by the cities of Pasadena and Westchester.

Jacki discussed how the SBCCOG is monitoring a homeless proposal that would provide services for homeless individuals in the Gateway areas, which is currently being reviewed by LA County Supervisor Knabe's Office, who could potentially fund this proposal if it is deemed a feasible project for the South Bay.

Upcoming Events

Jacki shared information on the SBCCOG General Assembly, to be held on February 27, 2015, with a focus on neighborhoods. Jacki also shared upcoming events for the SBCCOG, specifically the following:

July 24 – New Member Orientation and Alphabet Soup of Regional Agencies,
July 24 – Board of Directors' Meeting and the Update on Air Quality Management Plan presentation by Barry Wallerstein, the Executive Director of the SCAQMD, and

August 20 – Space X Tour on August 20 at 10 a.m. and stated that space is limited.

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

Jim Goodhart thanked Jacki for her presentation and shared with those in attendance the Legislative Matrix, which was part of the agenda packet, and asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the items identified or if there were any additional items to place on the matrix list.

Suzanne Fuentes from the City of El Segundo stated that AB 2389: New Advanced Strategic Aircraft Program was passed and that the bill will provide a tax break for Lockheed Martin Corp. for manufacturing. Suzanne disclosed that she works for Northrop Grumman and shared that Northrop Grumman is a major employer in El Segundo and the largest aerospace company in California and its biggest employer. Suzanne stated that she reached out to Assemblymember Muratsuchi and Bradford and Senator Lieu asking to modify the in the bill, since the bill did not provide any benefits to Northrop Grumman. Jeff Kiernan from the League of CA Cities confirmed this statement and mentioned that the Committee members seemed willing to make that change. Suzanne stated that she hopes the SBCCOG would support the modified verbiage of the bill so that Northrop Grumman would also benefit from this tax break. MyLoc Dihn from Assemblymember Muratsuchi's Office discussed the background of AB 2389 and

how the Assemblymember is working to assist in amending the language of the bill to include current contractors like Northrop Grumman.

Jim Knight from Rancho Palos Verdes commented on H.R. 29: Relative to Outsourcing Public Services and asked that the SBCCOG follow-up or the League of CA Cities on this issue and see how this might impact cities. Jeff Kiernan stated that H.R. 29 passed in Committee with little opposition. Jim Goodhart shared that the emphasis on public/private partnerships could be a reaction to the loss of redevelopment agencies.

Federal Offices

Maurice Lyles from Senator Boxer's Office shared that the Water bill (H.R. 3080: The Water Resources Reform & Development Act of 2014) passed in Congress. The ramifications of this bill for California include a Harbor maintenance trust fund, which taxes retail goods, with funds allocated for port development, specifically the Port of LA and the Port of Long Beach, which are two of the largest ports and contributors to the trust fund, for dredging and sediment contamination and removal, etc. Maurice also discussed bill S.335 - Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2013, which will allow treasury bond loans for water flooding, watershed and desalination and takes into consideration the impacts of the drought, mainly for cities that own their own water. Maurice reviewed the Transportation bill, a six-year bill, allowing for greater flexibility planning for transportation agencies. Maurice also shared that within 20 days the Highway Trust Fund is going to run out of money and Congress is looking at ways to fund it, including possibly raising the federal gas tax from \$.18 to approximately \$.31 and customs fees to provide funding for the Highway Trust Fund. The Senator's goal is to get a long-term funding source. Michael Rock from the City of Lomita asked if both options fail, what happens, with Maurice stating that it would force the Department of Transportation to halt funding projects for states, forcing states to prioritize transportation projects. Jim Goodhart mentioned that electric vehicles have not taken over gasoline vehicles yet but are part of the tax base and inquired if there was discussion on how the gas tax may impact electric vehicles. Maurice stated there has not been much discussion about this issue. Jim Knight inquired about a mileage tax at which Bill Orton from Senator Roderick Wrights' Office stated that discussion is occurring at the state level, with states like Oregon implementing such measures. Jeff Kiernan from the League of CA Cities mentioned that there is a pilot program that the Legislature is reviewing and stated he could provide more information if there is an interest in participating in a vehicle mileage travel pilot program. Bill Orton mentioned the Department of Transportation's vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication system and the digital infrastructure within the new fleet of vehicles currently on the road, which allows for autonomous vehicle-to-vehicle communication and harvesting of data on what individuals do with their cars. Suzanne Fuentes inquired about the civil liberties that relate to this type of communication. Judy Mitchell from the City of Rolling Hills Estates stated that SCAG has discussed extensively about taxing vehicle miles travelled.

Joey Apodaca from Congressman Waxman's Office discussed how the Congressman is working to defend Social Security and pending cuts to field operations, which impacts a significant number of elderly individuals within the

33rd District. Joey stated that the House Republicans have tried to undermine environmental protections, which is the Congressman's priority as the Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which is holding hearings on the climate change crisis. Regarding the Affordable Care Act, Joey stated that the report released by the Department of Health and Human Services examined more than 19,000 plans in the federally facilitated marketplace and provided data on the actual premiums paid for coverage, with the results showing that individuals selecting plans with tax credits, are paying \$100 or less per month with half reporting paying \$50 or less per month. Joey stated the report provides strong evidence for the affordability of premiums. Regarding the immigration crisis, Congressman Waxman is consulting with colleagues and the relevant committees to evaluate what is best for the children and feasible for the national interest. Olivia Valentine from the City of Hawthorne inquired about how the state will recoup funds used to resolve the immigration crisis on the border. Suzanne Fuentes emphasized the importance of framing the discussion around what is best for our sovereign nation and national security.

State Offices

Bill Orton from Senator Wrights' Office explained how the Senator is unable to take part in the activities in the Capitol for the remainder of the session, until there is an affirmative vote on his status. From a legislative perspective, the senator is a "no" vote on everything, due to the rules of the legislature, which requires a "yes," "abstain" or "not voting" designation, otherwise it becomes a "no" vote. Regarding congestion relief, Bill shared that SB 1298: High-Occupancy Toll Lanes, which makes permanent the toll lanes on the I-110 and I-10, has not received a no-vote against it, which could provide to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) a permanent pathway process by which other future toll lanes could be established anywhere in the state. Bill also stated that Metro is seeking to have toll lane options on every highway in Los Angeles. Bill reinforced that the Senator's office is available to assist with constituent matters within the 35th District.

Myla Rahman from Assemblymember Bradford's Office encouraged attendees to reach out to the Assemblymember during the recess. Myla shared that the Assemblymember is the Chair of the Committee on Utilities and Commerce and that on July 19 at 10 a.m. in the City of Hawthorne, there will be a Utilities Town Hall Meeting where utility companies will share programs for business and individuals to save money on utility bills. Myra mentioned that AB 2173: Vehicles: Motorized Bicycles was chaptered, which will increase the horsepower of electric bicycles to encourage affordable green transportation. Myla also stated that the Assemblymember is sponsoring other utility and educational bills.

Robert Pullen-Miles from Senator Lieu's Office provided a legislative update and distributed a "Bill Summary" at the meeting. Robert discussed the 16 bills, which will be heard in the Senate Appropriation Committee on August 4. Robert stated that the Senator has emphasized legislation including civil liberties and campaign finance and reform, specifically SB 2: Sunshine in Campaigns Act, which will require additional mandatory disclosure of campaign contributions. Additionally, Robert shared information on SB 511: CA Export Finance Office, specifically that this bill will attempt to increase trade and commerce in the state of California by

convening a statewide panel that will create an economic development plan, which will be marketed to the international community. Robert also discussed SB 828: 4th Amendment Protection Act, which upholds the privacy of CA residents, specifically against wiretapping without a warrant and would prohibit agencies from collaborating with the Federal government in collecting data on individuals without a warrant, which compromises their privacy. Lastly, Robert discussed SB 1272: Citizens United, which is an advisory measure that will be placed on the November Ballot that will ask the electorate to consider overturning the Supreme Court decision which recognizes corporations as citizens with the same rights as “persons,” exemplified by the recent Hobby Lobby decision. Robert stated this would serve as a litmus test to signal to other states to pass similar legislation, with the goal of the federal government instituting a constitutional amendment. Suzanne Fuentes inquired about SB 828 and whether the Senator would be supportive of monitoring a mileage tax and asked about SB 388: Public Safety Officers’ & Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights. Jeff Kiernan stated that the League of CA Cities opposes SB 388. Maurice Lyles asked about SB 1272 and whether the Governor will sign the bill.

MyLoc Dinh from Assemblymember Muratsuchi’s Office discussed SB 2216: Regional Occupational Centers and Programs: the Funding and how the original plan was to include the bill into the budget process. MyLoc shared that the Assemblymember is Chair of the Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance and how the Assembly placed the funding for SoCal ROC back into the budget, although it did not make it out of the budget. MyLoc discussed the CA Careers Pathway Trust and how school districts can compete for funding and stated that SoCal ROC can partner with school districts to compete for funding. MyLoc also mentioned that AB 2216 would extend for an additional two years funding for regional occupational centers with a hearing at the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 4. Suzanne Fuentes asked that MyLoc provide further information on the CA Careers Pathway Trust. MyLoc encouraged attendees to send letters to the Governor’s office to convey the importance of funding this matter, as it impacts not only schools, but business and local government as well. Eleanor Jones from the City of Torrance mentioned that there should be a review as to how many of the school districts within the SBCCOG have already applied and provide districts with the information they need to move forward to apply for funding.

Jacki shared information on Metro’s Adhoc Congestion Reduction Committee and how on next week, Metro will be allocating the funding for the Toll Lanes. Jacki stated that Metro has determined that there is \$15 million for the I-110 and \$6 million for the I-10. Jacki shared that funding will go to the following: a traffic management system for incident management on the freeway, improvements on the freeway, a My Figueroa Project, a bike-share Downtown, the Dominguez Channel in Carson and a pedestrian path, expanded bus service for Dodger’s Stadium and Torrance Transit. Jacki recommended attendees review Metro’s agenda, specifically Item 36 for more details.

Jim Goodhart congratulated Assemblymember Muratsuchi on the passage of AB 777: Taxes: Exemption: Space Flight Property.

Agency and Public Comments

Jeff Kiernan from the League of CA Cities discussed how the Governor did include in the budget \$100 million for reimbursable state mandates from prior to 2004 and offered to provide the list upon request. Jeff discussed how the League is continually working on the Massage, Marijuana and Sewer bills; Jeff also discussed the Film Tax Credit and how the Water Bond did not get done prior to summer recess and stated that the League has a sample letter on the bond and welcomed cities to sign on in support of groundwater recharge, storage, etc. Jeff shared that the League is having an End of Session Webinar on all legislation the League has worked on in the past legislative session, which will be held on July 14th. Jeff stated that on July 15th, the League will also have a Federal Issues Webinar to discuss transportation and water, followed by the July 22nd Webinar on the Film Tax Credits.

Chris Cagle from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (WIB) stated he is available to attendees if they need any information. Chris discussed the TSE program that allows the workforce to pay for 100 percent of labor for six months, which is available to cities, school districts and nonprofits. Chris emphasized to attendees to let their city and school directors know to contact the WIB if they need more labor. The WIB is trying to place 4,000 people into jobs. Suzanne Fuentes asked if the positions are temporary. Chris stated that agencies have the option to hire the workers and that participants working through this program are receiving social services and that the goal of the program is to emphasize job skills, obtaining a good reference and work experience that could lead to permanent employment. Robert Pullen-Miles inquired if it is a summer program and Chris stated that there is a youth summer program and that for adults, the program is available year-round.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Jim Goodhart thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m. until the next Legislative Briefing on October 9, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments