

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transit Operators' Working Group

April 19th, 2017

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz, David Leger (SBCCOG); Joyce Rooney, Amy Ahdi, Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Ernie Crespo, Dana Pynn (Gardena Transit); Kim Turner, James Lee, Godfrey Offoegbu (Torrance Transit); Martin Gombert (PV Transit)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the February 16, 2017 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 2:36pm.

2) SBCCOG Transportation Committee Update

Steve Lantz briefly described the formation of the Transportation Committee, explaining that it is to serve as the SBCCOG Board Policy Committee on all things transportation, including Measure R and Measure M. Mr. Lantz explained that the Committee was originally set up after the passage of Measure R to help develop the South Bay Highway Program procedures, but that after two years, it was dissolved and its duties returned to the Steering Committee. Now with both Measure R and M, it was felt that the Transportation Committee should be reconstituted and that there would be non-voting representatives from IWG, Transit Operators and South Bay Metro Service Council.

3) Measure M Guidelines

Steve Lantz and Jacki Bacharach gave an update on the Measure M Policy Advisory Council (PAC). Metro Staff had indicated to the PAC that the Metro Board must approve the guidelines prior to the tax being collected (July 1st), so the Metro Board must review and approve them at the June Board meeting. Staff was asked to show where in the Measure M ordinance it required that the guidelines be finished by that date, and after review with Metro Legal Counsel, it was determined that it was an artificial deadline. The PAC also decided that they wanted a bigger role than simply providing a communications channel as Metro Staff had originally wanted. The group divided itself into three "caucuses"; "Providers" such as the municipal transit operators & Metrolink, "Consumers" such as the Automobile Club and environmental groups, and "Governance" such as cities/COGs. The caucuses will discuss the proposed guidelines and if they can come to a consensus on recommendations, those recommendations will be sent to the Metro Board for consideration.

There was then a robust discussion on the SBCCOG draft letter to Metro regarding the proposed Measure M guidelines. The Transit Operators expressed their satisfaction with Metro's current guidelines and expressed their concerns that the COGs were seeking to change long established funding allocation processes and to place themselves in an unneeded funding role. Members expressed specific concern with the expansion of project eligibility for industry-defined terms such as "active transportation" and "first/last mile", the inclusion of ride-hailing services in addition to taxi services, and other terms/languages in items that have historically referenced Transit Operators. There was significant concern that the SBCCOG was not representing the operators' interests and that expansion of eligible recipients would create unwelcome competition. Jacki Bacharach expressed her belief that mobility projects were ever evolving and changing and that traditional transit should not be the only eligible recipients for certain categories. She offered to bring their concerns to the board, but the transit operators expressed their intention to represent their concerns to the SBCCOG Board.

- 4) **Announcements/Adjournment – Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting:** It was proposed that, rather than waiting two months for the next meeting, the Transit Operators Task Force would meet on May 17, 2017 at 2:30pm. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p. m.