

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

South Bay Transit Operators Working Group

AGENDA

Thursday, March 4, 2021

3:00 p. m. - 4:00 p. m.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://scag.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArc-urqDwiHtZboDXD5fxAGj3SE5gFe_ff

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information to join the meeting.

- 3:00 p. m. Self-Introductions and Approval of February 4, 2021 Meeting Notes (Attachment A)**
- 3:05 p. m. Transit Operator Issues and Concerns Including COVID-19 Impacts**
- 3:15 p. m. Measure R SBHP Decennial Transfer Update & Metro Budget Request Update**
- 3:20 p.m. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies**
 - Recovery Task Force Recommendations
 - Metro FY 22 Revenue Service Hour Program
 - Metro Fareless System Initiative
 - Metro Fare Capping Strategy
 - Metro Traffic Reduction Study/ Congestion Pricing Pilot
 - Metro Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Project
 - Crenshaw/LAX Project Update
 - CEO Succession
- 3:35 p. m. SBCCOG Scoping Letter for C (Green) Line Extension EIR (Attachment B)**
- 3:45 p. m. March 2021 Transportation Update (Attachment C, to be distributed separately)**
- 3:55 p. m. Three Month Look-Ahead (Attachment D)**
- 4:00 p. m. Announcements / Adjournment**

Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting date – April 1st or April 8th?

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South Bay Cities Council of Governments Transit Operators' Working Group

February 4, 2021

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney, Leslie Scott & Diane Amaya (Beach Cities Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); Martin Gombert (PVPTA); James Lee & Ryan Plumb (Torrance Transit); Steve Lantz, Jacki Bacharach & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the January 7, 2021 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns Including COVID-19 Impacts

Mr. Lantz opened discussion for the agencies to share pandemic and general issues and concerns.

Ms. Pynn noted GTRANS service remains largely unchanged from last month, except for the new federal mask mandate on public transportation. She explained that the regional general managers group has started discussing how to best implement the rule. The trouble would likely be around a situation where a passenger does not want to wear a mask, and how the driver is supposed to respond. Mr. Lantz added that Metro CEO Phil Washington stated that his job was to protect the safety of the operators and he wasn't willing to force them to enforce the mask mandate. Metro is letting the LAPD/Sheriff/Metro Ambassadors do the enforcement. Ms. Rooney reported that Beach Cities Transit doesn't have too many mask compliance issues, but also hands out masks to those who need them. Mr. Lee noted that Torrance Transit previously had a few regular riders who refused to wear masks, but at least one has now started complying.

Mr. Lee asked the group if any other operators had been contacted by El Segundo about using a bus to shuttle seniors to a COVID-19 vaccination site. Ms. Rooney shared that Beach Cities Health District is looking to work with LA County to set up a vaccination site in Manhattan Beach and that BCT is beginning talks with them on what service may be able to be provided. Concerns surround bringing large groups of vulnerable seniors to the sites using one vehicle as well as physical logistical issues at the site being considered. The discussions are in very early stages so additional details can be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Jo shared that Carson is considering working with Long Beach on an interagency partnership to provide service for the main corridors in the city. Additional details may be available in February.

Mr. Plumb also reported that construction of the Torrance Transit Center is well underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

3) Measure R SBHP Decennial Transfer Update & Metro Budget Request Update

Mr. Lantz shared that the Measure R Metro Budget Request recommendation is in the agenda packet and includes the previously applied for Transit projects. Please let Mr. Leger know of any cashflow changes before the SBCCOG Board meeting. After the Metro Board approves the transfer in July or later, there may be an additional delay until funding is available while Metro staff drafts guidelines for the new program.

4) Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

- Metro Recovery Task Force Recommendations / Metro Fareless Service Initiative

Mr. Lantz briefly provided a brief update on the Metro Recovery Task Force recommendations and the Fareless Service Initiative (FSI). Ms. Pynn shared that the municipal operators have started to be more involved in the FSI but have not had a meeting with Metro in several weeks. Ms. Rooney added that it was relayed to her through another working group that an update would be going to the Metro Board in the Spring. Mr. Lantz shared that at a recent Metro Board Staff briefing, there was significant concern not only about impact on municipal operators, Access Services, and other transit operators in the County, but also about the FSI impacts on federal grant funding opportunities. As part of federal grant applications, Metro is required to prove the financial capability to deliver the project, including funding to operate the service in addition to existing services and capital projects.

In its most recent full funding grant agreement, Metro had indicated it planned on increasing fares. However, with the FSI and the elimination of hundreds of millions in fare revenues, Metro cannot identify where that funding would then come from, which would jeopardize Metro's ability to qualify for federal capital grant funding.

- 5) **Three Month Look-Ahead:** Item was received and filed.
- 6) **February 2021 Transportation Update:** Item was received and filed.
- 7) **Announcements/Adjournment – Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting**
The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. to March 4, 2021 at 3 p.m.



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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DRAFT

Attachment B

March 9, 2021

Dolores Roybal Saltarelli
Project Manager
Los Angeles Metro
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop: 99-22-4
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: C (Green) Line Extension EIR Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Roybal Saltarelli:

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) welcomes the initiation of the Environmental Impact Report preparation process for the extension of the C (Green) Line to Torrance project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This vital step will keep the project among Metro's highest rail development priorities as the region prepares for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games and to ensure the Metro Board will meet its commitment to open the line well before the Measure M expenditure plan 2033 deadline.

We understand the EIR analysis will evaluate two routes and several profile alternatives between the existing Redondo Beach Marine Station and the under-construction Torrance Transit Center.

The SBCCOG looks forward to providing our thoughts on the project alternates once the Draft EIR is completed and prior to Metro's selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative. However, we are sensitive to a wide range of community concerns that have been raised during previous studies about impacts and mitigations on both routes.

To provide the most comprehensive analysis of options, mitigations and costs, we urge Metro to include all feasible profiles in the Draft EIR for environmentally sensitive segments on both alignments. While it may result in a more complex document, it will help ensure the Final EIR can be prepared without the need for a Supplemental EIR and without delaying design and construction of the project.

The SBCCOG also requests Metro to evaluate the circulation and access to the two stations being evaluated for each alignment. We strongly support inclusion of a properly-sized parking structure in the C (Green) Line project EIR at the Torrance Transit Center since this station will become the new C (Green) Line terminal station for the foreseeable future.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

We are also requesting Metro to include evaluation of a non-pedestrian connection between the Galleria station on the Hawthorne Boulevard route and the existing Redondo Transit Center, which are approximately 2/3 mile apart. Because this is an unacceptable walking distance, the C (Green Line) EIR should include a Metro bus, shuttle, or other non-pedestrian connection in the project scope.

South of 190th Street, the two light rail route alternatives merge into a single alignment to reach the Torrance Transit Center. SBCCOG is very concerned with how the Metro-owned right-of-way will be shared by freight tracks and the light rail double track. We urge Metro to start negotiating now to establish the parameters of a solution that ensures Metro's ability to add light rail double tracks while continuing to share Metro's right of way with the railroads which must have access to their customers in the segment and must store empty rail cars in the vicinity of the San Pedro ports.

SBCCOG, Metro, and local communities have been working on this project for more than a decade. The SBCCOG looks forward to continued involvement in the project development process to assist Metro to plan, design and deliver this important project. We urge Metro to fully evaluate the options, impacts and mitigations in the project's first formal EIR so that an accurate project scope and costs can be estimated and the project can proceed into design and construction without further delay.

Thank you for considering our scoping comments.

Sincerely,

Olivia Valentine
Chair, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hawthorne

c.c.: SBCCOG Board of Directors
L. A. Metro Board of Directors

SBCCOG 3-Month Look Ahead

March 2021	April 2021	May 2021
<p>4. Transit Operators Working Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID 19 Recovery • Metro Fareless System Initiative • Metro Congestion Pricing Study • Green Line EIR Scoping Comments <p>8. SBCCOG Transportation Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Line EIR Scoping Comments • Metro Fareless System Initiative <p>8. SBCCOG Steering Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Line EIR Scoping Comments <p>10. IWG Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCAG Smart Cities Innovation – Parking Management Grant • Spotlight: Local Travel Network <p>12. Metro South Bay Service Council</p> <p>18. SBCCOG General Assembly</p> <p>25. Metro Board Meeting</p> <p>25. SBCCOG Board Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DARK due to General Assembly 	<p>4 or 8. Transit Operators Working Group Meeting</p> <p>9. Metro South Bay Service Council Meeting</p> <p>12. SBCCOG Transportation Committee Meeting</p> <p>12. SBCCOG Steering Committee Meeting</p> <p>14. IWG Meeting</p> <p>22. Metro Board Meeting</p> <p>22. SBCCOG Board Meeting</p>	<p>6. Transit Operators Working Group Meeting</p> <p>10. SBCCOG Transportation Committee Meeting</p> <p>10. SBCCOG Steering Committee Meeting</p> <p>12. IWG Meeting</p> <p>14. Metro South Bay Service Council Meeting</p> <p>27. Metro Board Meeting</p> <p>27. SBCCOG Board Meeting</p>

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