

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – January 13, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Attendees: Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Lifan Xu (El Segundo); Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach); Louis Atwell (Inglewood); Prem Kumar, Helen Shi & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes); Steve Finton, Art Reyes & Joey Garcia (Torrance); Jimmy Shih (Caltrans); Andres Narvaez, Maryam Adhami, Ron Matsuoka, John Ickis & William Johnson (LA County DPW); Ed Alegre, Kali Fogel & Mark Dierking (Metro); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz, Wally Siembab, Aaron Baum & David Leger (SBCCOG); Anissa Voyiatzes (Arduzza); Marie Marston (Civil Works Engineers); Alan Clelland (DKS); Jei Mercado (Etherwan); Wayne Richardson (HDR); Alek Hovsepian, Vigen Davidian & Paul Frislie (Iteris); Jonai Johnson & Myriam Frausto (Mark Thomas); Margaret Novak & Marc Violett (MBaker Intl); Janna McKhann & Aaron Edwards (Nextech); Diego Cadena (WKE); Claudette Moody (WSP)

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of December 9, 2020 IWG Meeting Notes** – Chair Ted Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. The December 9, 2020 meeting notes were approved without objection.

II. **Agency & Other Update Reports**

A. SBCCOG: Ms. Bacharach reported that SBCCOG is holding a South Bay Fiber Network (SBFN) Working Group meeting on January 25th with a presentation by Evoque, which provides one of the two SBFN Points of Presence. The SBCCOG continues to discuss health departments and Service Planning Areas which stemmed from the recent outdoor dining ban. The SBCCOG is also looking into hiring a regional planner to help with RHNA and other regional planning projects. Ms. Bacharach also provided an overview of HomeShare South Bay and the homelessness issues training module for city staff that is under development. Finally, Ms. Bacharach announced that the 2021 General Assembly will be taking place virtually on March 18th.

B. South Bay Traffic Forum (LACDPW): Mr. Ickis reported updates on the various County ITS and TSSP projects taking place in the South Bay. The detailed updates are included in a written report available here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_ITS%20%26%20TSSP%20status%20-%20January%202021%20Final.pdf

Ms. Bacharach asked if the SBFN has opened up any opportunities for the projects like the ones on the list that were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Alegre noted that connections to the IEN were a condition of the SBFN funding as part of the Metro Board approval of the project. Mr. Matsuoka also added that for IEN Phase 2, city internet capacity plays a critical role, so those receiving more bandwidth via the SBFN may observe more benefits.

C. Caltrans District 7: Mr. Shih announced that the I-405/I-110 interchange project should be completed by December 2021. The design for the Western Avenue project has been completed and the project construction contract should be awarded later this year. The PCH CAPM project is also on schedule.

D. LA Metro

1) LA Metro Board: Mr. Lantz noted that Metro's focus continues to be on COVID-19 recovery. Although sales tax collection is only down around 10-12%, social distancing requirements and COVID exposures have dramatically increased operation costs despite overall reduced service.

2) Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee: No report for the Metro TAC. Mr. Semaan asked that others consider volunteering to serve as the TAC representative as Mr. Marquez must step away due to staffing shortages at Carson. If you are interested in serving, please contact David Leger. Mr. Zandvliet reported that the Streets and Freeways subcommittee did not meet in December.

III. **SBCCOG Metro Budget Request Process Status**

Mr. Lantz announced that SBCCOG staff has received documents from lead agency staff requesting additional funding for 5 existing Measure R and M projects and 2 requests for new projects. From the initial review, it appears that the SBHP and MSPs have sufficient funding to handle the requests. The formal Metro Budget Requests will be prepared and presented to SBCCOG committees in February.

IV. **COVID-19 Recovery Update**

– Metro Recovery Task Force Recommendations

– SBCCOG Draft Letter to Metro re: Recovery Task Force Recommendations

Mr. Lantz reviewed Metro's internal Recovery Task Force recommendations and explained that there are potential impacts on funding sources such as Local Return and/or sub-regional programs like the Measure M

MSPs. Metro is looking into ways to fill funding and operating budget gaps created or exacerbated by the pandemic.

Ms. Bacharach added that one of the recommendations includes incentivizing people to not buy cars. The SBCCOG will be recommending in the comment letter that Metro consider incentivizing the purchase of NEVs and other slow speed zero emission vehicles in regions that transit service may not be as robust. A discounted or free transit pass may not be enough to encourage somebody in the South Bay to not purchase a vehicle due to the lack of robust service.

V. **Spotlight Presentation: South Bay Fiber Network Applications – Roundtable Discussion**

Mr. Fogel began the discussion by providing a brief presentation on the Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems (RIITS). RIITS provides regional infrastructure resources such as Microsoft Azure, transportation data storage, and fiber, but also provides applications such as Southern California 511, Measure Up!, and Metro Cloud Alliance. RIITS is a collaborative effort run by a Configuration Management Committee that aims to promote further coordination and collaboration. Metro procures goods and services to maintain transportation data in the region on behalf of RIITS. Mr. Fogel urged cities to work with him on ITS projects as RIITS has access to funding that could help fund portions of projects. Following his brief overview, Mr. Fogel began the roundtable discussion on potential RIITS projects for the South Bay. He provided some examples such as video distribution, event management, and more.

Mr. Fogel's presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_RIITS.pdf

Mr. Kumar began the discussion by providing a brief overview of Manhattan Beach's Advanced Traffic Signal Project which is being funded by Measure M. The signal system will allow the city to communicate with neighboring cities and share signal timing and schedules. The city plans to incorporate video detection, CCTV, dynamic message signs, and is considering including smart parking features. Mr. Kumar explained that this system will lay the groundwork for the eventual deployment of connected vehicles. The project is currently in the design phase. Once the project is procured, Mr. Kumar will share the scope with others in the South Bay so they can review what technologies the city is incorporating.

Mr. Finton shared that Torrance is currently upgrading their signals city-wide which will also include some video detection and more advanced management systems. The City is also sharing the signal phase and timing data with Audi and other car manufacturers to help develop connected vehicles.

Mr. Clelland noted that it is worthwhile to adopt the standard open interface when doing these improvements as it will not then be confined to one user/manufacturer.

Mr. Atwell shared that Inglewood has been laying fiber connections throughout the city over the past several years that will enable real-time signal control, changeable message signs, and real-time monitoring for their Police Department.

Mr. Semaan reported that Redondo Beach is not as far along as others but has adopted video detection as the standard for the city. They are also working closely with LA County to integrate city-operated signals into the County system. The City will be working with Manhattan Beach to ensure integration with their MBATS project.

Mr. Lantz explained that the SBCCOG is beginning to look into "SBFN Phase 2" which consists of transportation applications that operate via the SBFN. The SBCCOG may look into creating an implementation guide to offer examples of projects, standard technologies, and more. Mr. Alegre added that cities and the SBCCOG should also consider running project ideas by him and Mr. Fogel as part of the vetting process. That initial review will help with funding approvals once the SBCCOG submits its annual Metro Budget Request.

VI. **January 2021 SBCCOG Transportation Update** – Received and filed.

VII. **Three-Month Look Ahead** – Received and filed.

VIII. **Announcements & Adjournment**

Chair Semaan adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m. until February 10th, 2021 (public meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz (lantzsh10@gmail.com) by February 2, 2021.