

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – July 14, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Attendees: Kevin Kwak & William Mendoza (Gardena); Selena Acuna (Hawthorne); Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach); Julian Lee (Lawndale); Prem Kumar & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes); Jimmy Shih (Caltrans); Jeff Pletyak, Andrew Ross, Maggie Cheung (LACDPW); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz, Aaron Baum & David Leger (SBCCOG)

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of May 12, 2021 IWG Meeting Notes** – Mr. Lantz called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The April 14, 2021 meeting notes were approved without objection.

II. **Agency & Other Update Reports**

A. SBCCOG: Ms. Bacharach reported that the SBCCOG is now offering GIS services. For SBCCOG cities, the first 20 hours are free with any additional hours at \$78/hr. The hourly rate is available to other agencies that may need help as well. The SBCCOG Board is also concerned about coyote management and has asked the City Managers to discuss a potential regional approach at their next meeting. RPV is already working on a management plan and may be willing to take the lead on a more regional effort.

B. South Bay Traffic Forum (LACDPW): Mr. Pletyak reported on various County ITS and TSSP projects in the South Bay. He also noted that the County is learning from some earlier TSSP projects that experienced delays due to utility companies being consulted too late in the process. The County will start utility coordination in the early design phase now to ensure there are little to no coordination delays during construction. 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-%20May%202021.pdf

Mr. Zandvliet added that Manhattan Beach wants to collaborate with the County on their Manhattan Beach Blvd project as it relates to the city's MBATS project.

C. LA Metro

1) LA Metro Board Actions

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro approved a modernization of the highway program, expanding the definitions of eligible projects to include active transportation, transit, and TDM as well as facilities and software. The Metro Board also officially approved the Measure R Transfer and approved the Inglewood Transit Connector Project. The other city projects will be approved in a subsequent Board action, likely in September due to the Board being dark in August.

2) Metro TAC & Streets and Freeways

No updates.

D. Caltrans South Bay Projects

Mr. Shih provided an update on Caltrans projects taking place in the South Bay. His full report is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_Caltrans%20Projects%20Update%20July%202021.pdf

Mr. Shih also shared a link to the upcoming CTC workshop on STIP guidelines. The link to register is here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_Caltrans%20Projects%20Update%20July%202021.pdf

III. **Metro Highway Program Modernization**

Mr. Lantz explained that over the past couple years, a Metro Board Staff task force has been looking at the Highway Program and came up with recommendations to modernize it. The recommendations include a determination that subregional highway funds should be eligible for active transportation and transportation demand management projects. Those types of projects are now eligible as standalone projects and are no longer required to be ancillary elements of other eligible projects.

IV. **Roundtable discussion on Measure R SBHP/Measure M MSP multi-jurisdictional projects, SBFN transportation**

application development, LTN implementation, and other topics

Mr. Lantz opened up discussion to the group, explaining that in preparation for the upcoming call for projects, it would be helpful to know the types of projects cities are looking to implement over the next few years.

- Mr. Rodriguez shared that Hermosa Beach has been regularly discussing improvements to PCH. He noted that they do currently have Measure M MSP funding for a project, but the City Council is also discussing Beach City corridor improvement options. Beautification is an element of potential projects as well as traffic improvement.
- Mr. Awwad reported that Rancho Palos Verdes feels similarly about Western Avenue and is looking to improve congestion and mobility as well as beautify the corridor.
- Mr. Zandvliet explained that in Manhattan Beach, there is a lot of interest in mobility in general, particularly pedestrian and bike routes. He asked if other cities have adopted or implemented living streets manuals. He mentioned that the City has one ready to adopt, but has not yet pulled the trigger with Council approval. He added that one of the City's priority areas is Aviation Blvd, particularly for bike lanes and flushing out the Local Travel Network concept. However, there are not a lot of traditional infrastructure or roadway capacity improvements on the CIP at the moment as most are funded.
- Mr. Baum shared that in the September/October timeframe, the SBCCOG will be sitting down with each city to discuss the Local Travel Network and planning efforts for future MSP funded project applications.

Mr. Lantz went on to explain that when Measure M was first approved, the SBCCOG discussed creation of an Implementation Plan for the MSPs, similar to the one for Measure R SBHP. However, at that time, the MSP Task Force felt it was more timely to begin implementing projects and decided to move forward without an Implementation Plan, given the availability of the project selection criteria. Mr. Lantz further added that the SBCCOG's role in the development and delivery of subregional/intercity projects has not yet been defined, but that there is a place in the process for the SBCCOG to assist. He used the SBFN and LTN as examples of subregional efforts that are (or could be) led by the SBCCOG.

Mr. Lantz concluded by reviewing some initial budget forecasts for the Measure R SBHP and Measure M MSPs. He elaborated that with the approval of the Measure R transfer and the projected costs to complete existing projects, it appears that most Measure R funding will not be available for new Measure R projects through 2039, when Measure R expires. Measure M is slightly different due to the annual allocation limit from Metro and there being no termination date. There are some unspent funds from earlier years that could be allocated to existing or new projects, but the exact amounts are still being determined.

V. Unsolicited project bundling proposal

Mr. Lantz shared that the item included in the agenda packet was sent to the SBCCOG by Mark Thomas as an unsolicited proposal for assistance in bundling projects for more successful SB1 applications. Mr. Lantz asked for the group's feedback and if it was something they would consider valuable. The group largely agreed that although they have not been very successful thus far in SB1 applications and see the potential value in the concept, at this time, they are unable to recommend moving forward.

VI. Update on Measure R and Measure M Metro Budget Requests and Local Match requirements

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board is expected to approve the Measure R SBHP budget request at their July meeting, followed by the Measure M MSP request in September. Mr. Lantz reminded the group of the local match requirements for the upcoming FY22-23 Metro Budget Request call for projects.

VII. July 2021 SBCCOG Transportation Update – Received and filed.

VIII. Three-Month Look Ahead – Received and filed.

IX. Announcements & Adjournment

Mr. Lantz announced that the Transportation Committee will be dark in August and proposed the same for the IWG. The group agreed to go dark in August.

Mr. Kumar reported that Manhattan Beach has hired Erick Lee to serve as the new Public Works Director.

Mr. Ross introduced Maggie Cheung who was recently promoted and will be taking over for Bill Johnson in the South Bay for L. A. County DPW.

Mr. Lantz adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m. until September 8th, 2021 (agency-only meeting). To propose an item for the agenda, please email David Leger (DavidL@southbaycities.org) by September 1, 2021.