

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – September 9, 2020 (Held via Zoom)

Attendees: Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Lifan Xu (El Segundo); William Mendoza (Gardena); Marnell Gibson & Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach); Louis Atwell (Inglewood); Elliott Vong (LA City); Stephanie Katsouleas & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); Andrew Winje (Redondo Beach); Barbara Marquez, Leila Sy, Jimmy Shih, Ramin Ghodsi, Dan Kopulsky & Allen Chen (Caltrans); Rachel Roque (Sup. Hahn); John Ickis, Andres Narvaez, William Johnson & Samantha Miller (LA County DPW); Ryan Wiggins, Nour Abou-Fadel, Tham Nguyen & Mark Dierking (Metro); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG); Anissa Voyiatzes (Arduzza); Vik Bapna (CWE); Steven Anderson (DEA Inc); Rachel Vandenberg (Dewberry); Wayne Richardson (HDR); Jeff Markwardt (ICF); Arthur Chanprakrit (Iteris); Lan Saadatnejadi (LRS); Jonai Johnson (MarkThomas); Sarmad Farjo (Michael Baker); Juanita Martinez (SA Assoc); Frank Provenzano (TrafficCast)

- I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of June 10, 2020 IWG Meeting Notes** – Chair Ted Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm. The June 10, 2020 meeting notes were approved without objection.

- II. **Agency & Other Update Reports**
 - A. SBCCOG: Ms. Bacharach reported that SBCCOG staff is beginning to plan for a virtual General Assembly that is scheduled to take place March 18th, 2021. The quarterly Legislative Briefing has been changed to October 16th to accommodate a League of CA Cities event scheduled for the original date. Due to Judy Mitchell’s retirement from City Council in Rolling Hills Estates, there will be a vacancy on the AQMD Board. Justin Massey of Hermosa Beach is one of three candidates running for the position and the SBCCOG is likely to support his candidacy. Ms. Bacharach also asked for ideas on “Tech Talks” that will highlight apps and initiatives that can be run through the South Bay Fiber Network.

 - 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 available in a written report available here: https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_ITS%20%26%20TSSP%20status%20-September%202020.pdf

 - C. Caltrans District 7: Mr. Shih reported that the I-405/I-110 project is scheduled for completion by the end of 2021. Caltrans is currently working with Metro on funding agreements for local projects identified as part of the PCH Corridor project. The I-405/Crenshaw Blvd project is ready to advertise for construction around February 2021. PIDs for the 110 at PCH off-ramp project and auxiliary lane projects on the I-405 have been completed or are nearing completion.

 - D. LA Metro
 - 1) LA Metro Board: Ms. Abou-Fadel reported that the Metro Board approved the South Bay’s Measure M MSP budget requests last month and staff is beginning to work with project lead agencies on funding agreement documentation. Ms. Abou-Fadel also added that due to budget impacts, please coordinate with Metro if there are any larger than expected reimbursement requests for Measure R/M projects. Mr. Dierking added that scoping meetings for the Green Line to Torrance light rail extension will be held in January/February (virtually).
 - 2) Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee: Mr. Zandvliet reported that the Streets and Freeways subcommittee received reports on edge lane roads in rural areas, updates on the open streets grant program, and ATP applications deadline extensions (due 9/15 for electronic copies, 10/15 for hard copies). Mr. Semaan volunteered to serve as Alternate to the Metro TAC.

- III. **SBCCOG Metro Budget Request Update**

Mr. Lantz reported that SBCCOG staff had intended on holding one-on-one meetings with city staff this month to initiate the FY 2021-22 MBR but put them on hold per Metro’s request while Metro analyzes impacts of COVID-19 on sales tax revenues and budget availability. Meetings will likely be in November. Funding priority will be given to those projects already under construction or design and, if additional funding is available, new projects will be considered at that time.

- IV. **Measure R SBHP Decennial Transfer Policy Update**

Mr. Lantz announced that Metro has provided the State Legislature with the required notification of intention to amend the ordinance to allow for the transfer of funds between highway and transit in the Measure R program and must now wait until the one-year time frame has elapsed, meaning the ordinance will likely be officially amended in

June/July 2021.

V. **Crenshaw / LAX Cost Over-Run Update**

Mr. Lantz provided a brief overview on the cost over-run and Metro's efforts to identify funding sources for the shortfall. The SBCCOG Board had previously agreed to spend its Measure M Subregional Equity Program funding on the Centinela Grade Separation project on the Crenshaw/LAX line at Florence and Centinela. In light of the funding shortfall, the SBCCOG agreed to contribute its proportional share of the over-run from the SEP funds conditioned on City of LA's contribution of their share and Metro's commitment to fully fund the Centinela Grade Separation project. The City of LA is still looking for funding sources. Future updates will be provided as new information arises.

VI. **Presentation by LA County Public Works: System Detection Project**

Mr. Ickis gave a brief presentation on LA County's South Bay Arterial System Detection Project that will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. The project will identify and install arterial system detectors at various locations within South Bay cities to support traffic signal operations and network performance measurements that can enable traffic-responsive signal operations, collect traffic data, measure travel times, and more. The project is expected to begin construction in late 2021 and be completed in late 2022. For more detail including maps and the full presentation, please visit:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_South%20Bay%20Systems%20OG%20Presentation_Final.pdf

VII. **Presentation by Metro on Traffic Reduction / Congestion Pricing study**

Ms. Nguyen provided an overview of Metro's Traffic Reduction Study (formerly Congestion Pricing). This initiative aims to identify potential pilot zones for implementation of congestion pricing and other behavior-change strategies to encourage less single-occupant vehicle travel by charging drivers to enter certain geographic locations or travel along designated corridors. Metro is also considering a vehicle miles traveled concept but expects that option to be too difficult to implement. Metro hopes that by charging drivers, they will be encouraged to use alternative modes of transportation such as bus/rail, microtransit, active transportation, and even telework. However, to make those changes happen, high-quality alternatives to travel must be available. Four initial concepts will be presented to the Metro Board later this year. Metro is seeking input from various community groups and aims to identify some willing partners on a pilot project. The Metro Board would likely select a pilot project in Spring 2022 but would require additional coordination with State and Federal partners.

Mr. Semaan asked if this would include roadway widening and new construction. Ms. Nguyen explained that Metro hopes to do "infrastructure-lite" work and identify locations that require little improvement prior to starting the pilot.

Ms. Bacharach expressed her concern over the lack of transparency on this project and the potentially deceiving name of the study. Although it is called "traffic reduction", there is no transparency to the fact that congestion pricing is the major component of the project.

VIII. **COVID-19 Roundtable** – no discussion on this item.

IX. **FY20 APE Final Report/Monthly Project Progress Report/ One-on-One Meetings to be Rescheduled to November**

Mr. Leger pointed attendees to the two documents including the final FY20 APE and a brief project update document. The handouts are available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_Attachment%20B-1_SBHP%20APE%20Report%20FY%2019-20.pdf

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_Attachment%20B-2_SBHP%20Project%20Updates%20August%202020.pdf

X. **September 2020 SBCCOG Transportation Update** – Received and filed.

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

XII. **Announcements & Adjournment**

Chair Semaan adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. until October 14, 2020 (public meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz (lantzsh10@gmail.com) by October 1, 2020.