

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – October 14, 2020 (Held via Zoom)

Attendees: Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Lifan Xu (El Segundo); Stephanie Katsouleas, Prem Kumar & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); David Wahba (Rolling Hills Estates); Barbara Marquez & Robert (Caltrans); Rachel Roque (Sup. Hahn); John Ickis & William Johnson (LA County DPW); Isidro Panuco & Mark Dierking (Metro); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG); Deven Upadhyay, Rupam Soni & Charles Gale (Metropolitan MWD); E.J. Caldwell (West Basin MWD); Carlos Ortiz (Advantec USA); Anissa Voyiatzes (Arduzza); Marie Marston (Civil Works Engineers); Steven Anderson (DEA Inc); Rawad Hani (GenTec); Natasha DeBenon (Ghirardelli); Wayne Richardson (HDR); Viggen Davidian (Iteris); Myriam Frausto (MarkThomas); Margaret Novak & Majid Sarraf (Michael Baker); Janna McKhann & Aaron Edwards (NexTech); Lorraine Ahlquist (Rincon); Diego Cadena (WKE)

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of September 9, 2020 IWG Meeting Notes** – Chair Ted Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The September 9, 2020 meeting notes were approved without objection.

II. Agency & Other Update Reports

A. SBCCOG: Ms. Bacharach reported that SBCCOG is organizing a SBFN Celebration Ceremony for 10:30am on November 17th to celebrate the completion of the core fiberoptic ring network and to thank those who help make the project possible. The SBCCOG also recently launched the Home Share South Bay program which is a service that matches South Bay residents that have an extra room available in their homes with others. The goal is to help prevent those facing homelessness from becoming homeless by matching them with homeowners who may need extra income help paying rent, household services, etc. Insurance and background checks are included. The SBCCOG is also working on a lobbying effort related to housing legislation that could be supported by the South Bay. The City of Torrance also requested that the SBCCOG consider restarting the regional approach to coyote management, but due to current financial constraints, it is not a high priority for the other cities. At the October Board of Directors meeting, there will be a presentation on the COVID-19 vaccine effort underway at Harbor UCLA.

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-October%202020.pdf

C. Caltrans District 7: no update provided.

D. LA Metro

1) LA Metro Board: Mr. Panuco reported that the Metro Board approved the FY21 budget at last month's meeting. He also reported that funding agreements/amendments are in the works for several Measure M and Measure R projects, including the Caltrans PCH project and the I-405/Crenshaw Blvd. project.

2) Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee: Mr. Semaan informed the group that Carson representatives have asked to step away from TAC representation due to staffing shortages at the city. If you are interested in serving, please contact David Leger. Mr. Zandvliet reported that the Streets and Freeways subcommittee did not meet this month but shared that the HSIP project application deadline was extended to November 2nd.

III. SBCCOG Metro Budget Request Update and Request for Additional Funding

A. City of Torrance Request for Additional Funds

Mr. Lantz reported that Torrance has requested additional funding for the Transit Center Park and Ride project. Due to the timing of the need, the City is requesting an expedited process, apart from the annual Metro Budget Request cycle. Ms. Bacharach clarified that the project is not out of funding, but that it is a cashflow issue they are facing. Mr. Lantz added that the city one-on-one meetings will be scheduled once funding updates are provided by Metro. 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. Caltrans D7 Ambassadors Program Introductions and Overview

Caltrans Deputy Directors Barbara Marquez and Robert So introduced themselves as the new Ambassadors for the Caltrans District 7 and provided a brief overview of the Caltrans Ambassadors Program for the two Caltrans service areas in the South Bay. The program aims to improve communication and strengthen partnerships with local

communities by creating a lead point of contact for individual cities who can help access any Caltrans resources needed to address issues. District 7 deputy district directors have been assigned geographical areas to serve as the agency's local liaisons and help Caltrans better understand and meet the needs of local cities. Ms. Marquez and Mr. So touched on Caltrans' efforts to address equity via the Division of Planning Transportation Equity Branch; maintenance services; collaborative efforts on homelessness; and the Small Business Outreach Program. For more detail, the presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_Caltrans%20Ambassador%20Program.pdf . Slide 3 shows which cities are assigned to each deputy district director.

V. **Spotlight Presentation: Update on MWD's Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Program**

Mr. Upadhyay presented an update on the Metropolitan Water District's regional recycled water program that will develop a new regional water source to help replenish groundwater basins, provide water to industries, and to connect to MWD's other water treatment plants. The program would create approximately 150 million gallons of water per day, enough water for over 500,000 homes, and is one of the largest programs of its kind in the world. The program is being done in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts at their facility in Carson. For more information, the entire presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_Regional%20Recycled%20Water%20Program.pdf

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. **COVID-19 Roundtable**

Ms. Katsouleas asked the group if they had staff back in the office and if their city was open to the public. She shared that in Manhattan Beach, the City offices were not open to the public and staff was continuing to work at home as much as possible.

Mr. Semaan shared that in Redondo Beach, City Hall continues to be closed and there is only a skeleton crew in the office. Most public facilities continue to be closed.

Mr. Xu shared that El Segundo staff is back in the office and City Hall is open. Certain staff are able to work from home a couple days per week. Certain facilities, such as the senior center, continue to be closed.

Mr. Wahba added that in Rolling Hills Estates, City Hall is open, but staff is currently operating on an alternating 9/80 work schedule so that only half are there at one time.

The group then briefly shared their experiences with outdoor dining in their cities and the challenges they face as the wet season approaches. Some facilities were built with stormwater and runoff in mind and some were not and now must be retrofitted. Some cities shared that permit fees were waived and some parklets were built by the city. Code enforcement continues to monitor for unsafe outdoor heating devices, etc.

VIII. **FY21 APE Baseline Report**

Mr. Lantz announced that after conversations with Metro staff over the past several weeks, the SBCCOG will no longer produce the APE. Metro staff no longer utilizes the report, and after consulting with the IWG Chair, he concurred. The SBCCOG will no longer monitor projects at an individual level but will continue to assist local agencies to develop new projects, monitor the program and make budget recommendations through the annual Metro Budget Request process. This will also conform the SBCCOG's role in the Measure R South Bay Highway Program to its role in the Measure M Multi-Year Subregional Programs and is consistent with our Measure R funding agreement with Metro.

IX. **October 2020 SBCCOG Transportation Update** – Received and filed.

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

XI. **Announcements & Adjournment**

Chair Semaan adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. until December 9th, 2020 (public meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz (lantzsh10@gmail.com) by November 30, 2020.