

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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

Attendees: Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Gilbert Marquez (Carson); Lifan Xu (El Segundo); William Mendoza (Gardena); Stephanie Katsouleas & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes); Jimmy Shih & Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans); Andres Narvaez, Pamela Manning, Ron Matsuoka, John Ickis & William Johnson (LA County DPW); Mark Dierking (Metro); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG); Steven Anderson (DEA Inc); Wayne Richardson (HDR); David Chow, Peter Richards, Jason King & Mahrokh Arefi (IBI Group); Myriam Frausto (MarkThomas); Janna McKhann (NexTech); Jeff Cooper (NV5); Cheryl DeMucci (Paragon Partners); Zak Kaldawi (PMCS Group); Diego Cadena (WKE)

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of October 14, 2020 IWG Meeting Notes** – Chair Ted Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The October 14, 2020 meeting notes were approved without objection.

II. **Agency & Other Update Reports**

A. SBCCOG: Ms. Bacharach reported that SBCCOG is working with the Energy Coalition on energy efficiency projects in municipal facilities. The SBCCOG Board held a special meeting to discuss the recent LA County ban on outdoor dining in response to rising COVID-19 cases. The Board voted to send letters to LA County and the Governor and also instructed staff to work with Beach Cities Health District to look into the formation of a South Bay Health Department that could issue sub-regional health directives in future health emergencies. The SBCCOG is also looking into hiring a regional planner to help with RHNA and other regional planning projects. Ms. Bacharach reported that Rex Richardson won the SCAQMD seat vacated by Judy Mitchell upon her retirement. 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-%20December%202020_0.pdf

C. Caltrans District 7: Mr. Shih announced that the I-405/Crenshaw Blvd. project is expected to be awarded in February 2021. Earlier in the month, the CTC approved the staff recommendation for the I-105 ExpressLanes as well as a couple of SR 91 Freeway projects.

D. LA Metro

1) LA Metro Board: Mr. Dierking reported that the C (Green) Line extension to Torrance is moving forward with tentative EIR scoping meetings scheduled for February 24th and 27th. Stakeholder meetings are also being scheduled in the weeks leading up to the scoping meetings.

2) Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee: Mr. Marquez reported that he missed the November meeting, but that during the October meeting, the TAC received updates on CTC actions. He also asked that others consider volunteering to serve as the TAC representative as he must step away 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 was informed that HSIP Cycle 10 project decisions are expected by the end of January. Over 100 applications were submitted from Caltrans D7 alone. The 2nd round of ATP grant award recommendations are expected in February. Over 453 applications were submitted state-wide, totaling over \$2.2B in requests. If a project is not awarded funding by the CTC, it can still be considered for funding at the regional level.

III. **SBCCOG Metro Budget Request Process Initiation and Overview**

Mr. Lantz announced that SBCCOG staff has sent out documents to lead agency staff requesting updates on their existing Measure R SBHP and Measure M MSP projects as part of the annual Metro Budget Request process. Funding priority will be given to those projects needing additional funding that are already under construction or design and, if additional funding is available, new projects will be considered as a third priority.

Mr. Lantz took this time to review the Metro Highway Program modernization recommendations. The Metro Board convened a subcommittee of Board staff to look at ways to modernize the Highway Department. The group developed a set of recommendations that would broaden the list of eligible project types as well as update the evaluation method to look at Vehicle Miles Traveled instead of Level of Service. The updates do not require ATP to

be included in project proposals but allow ATP projects to be standalone projects when previously they could not qualify.

The handouts on this item are available here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_Modernizing%20the%20Metro%20Highway%20Program%20.pdf

Ms. Bacharach also brought up the Metro Recovery Task Force recommendations that were presented at the December Metro PAC meeting. Metro is asking for comments to be submitted on the recommendations over the holidays, which was objected to by the PAC. Metro CEO Phil Washington is considering an extension. Recommendations include potentially huge changes, such as repurposing of Local Return funds for Metro operations and use of subregional funding for Metro capital projects.

IV. Spotlight Presentation: Parametric Planning & Curb Asset Management

Mr. Chow introduced himself and gave a brief overview of IBI Group and some of their projects. Jason King explained that parametric design is a process based on algorithmic thinking that allows the user to define, encode, and clarify the relationship between design intent and design response. It uses complex computer algorithms to analyze the impacts of certain variables on design plans, saving planners countless hours. IBI Group is currently working with Metro to design the North San Fernando Valley BRT line to analyze three potential alignments to determine which best supported Metro's Transit Oriented Communities goals and objectives. IBI's tool analyzes hundreds of square miles in seconds, allowing planners access to data that was likely impossible to gather in traditional methods.

More detail is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_IBI%20Group%20Parametric%20Design%202020-12-07.pdf

Peter Richards presented on IBI Group's CurbiQ solution that aims to help cities effectively manage, maintain, and disseminate curbside restrictions and potential ways to monetize the asset. Mr. Richards touched on curbside challenges such as the evolving use of the curb while curbside management practices are stuck in the past. He went on to discuss digital solutions such as SharedStreets or CurbiQ the potential applications for the technology.

Mr. Richards' presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_IBI%20Group%20Curb%20Asset%20Management%202020-12-07.pdf

V. COVID-19 Roundtable

Mr. Semaan shared that in Redondo Beach, there was one restaurant that had been defying the LA County outdoor dining ban. The County Health Department has visited the restaurant. However, with the State order in effect, local bans are irrelevant at this time.

Mr. Zandvliet reported that Manhattan Beach has been working with restaurants to modify agreements to change the outdoor dining areas to public parklets with seating that is open to the public. The restaurant would not be able to serve the person there, but customers could choose to go sit down in the parklet after receiving their takeout food.

VI. December 2020 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 January 13th, 2021 (public meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz (lantzsh10@gmail.com) by January 4, 2021.