

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – May 20, 2015

Attachment A

Attendees: Rob Beste (Torrance); Stephanie Katsouleas & Lifan Xu (El Segundo); Frank Bigdeli (Gardena); Akbar Farokhi & Alan Leung (Hawthorne); Mark McAvoy (Lomita); Esther Amaya (Los Angeles); Ed Kao & Joe Parco (Manhattan Beach); Wisam Altowaji, Didar Khandker & Brad Lindahl (Redondo Beach); Ted Semaan (Torrance); Gary Slater (Caltrans); Pamela Manning & Pat Smith (LA County DPW); Isidro Panuco & Teresa Wong (Metro); Jacki Bacharach, Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)

Chair Beste called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of April 15, 2015 Minutes** (Attachment A) – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **Agencies & Other Reports-**

- **SBCCOG** – Jacki Bacharach announced the following:
 - The SBCCOG Steering Committee nominated candidates to fill the three vacancies on the Metro South Bay Service Council. This recommendation will be considered at the May 28 SBCCOG Board meeting.
 - The SBCCOG will be assisting the SBCCOG’s member agencies to design and implement the South Bay Cities Green Buildings Challenge program. The goal of this program is to accelerate adoption of sustainability initiatives in the South Bay Cities business community by directly engaging property managers and business tenants to take action on sustainable activities and achieve measurable results.
 - Metro has contracted the SBCCOG for a two-year Demo/Pilot Event Ride Share program using the RideAmigos program which will assist people in their travel choices.
 - The SBCCOG will be holding a workshop for City Commissioners on sustainability issues such as CEQA, climate action planning, and greenhouse gas emissions. Details have not yet been released.
 - Metro Sales Tax Proposal – Steve Lantz reported that Metro’s polling results of the community have not yet been made public. Mr. Lantz asked city staff to remind their City Councils that the South Bay makes up approximately fourteen percent of L. A. County population. If the new sales tax measure is modelled on Measure R, the South Bay would only be allocated ten percent of the funds generated from the new sales tax.
 - Federal Gas Tax Reauthorization - The SBCCOG drafted a letter to Congress per SCAG, supporting a reauthorization of the federal gas tax for a 5+ year period. The House passed an extension of MAP-21 for sixty days; it goes next to the Senate. Hopefully it passes before Memorial Day weekend. The SBCCOG would like to be able to seek funding for future transportation infrastructure to be partially funded by the extended gas tax.
- **SOUTH BAY TRAFFIC FORUM, LA County DPW** – Pat Smith distributed the South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report for May 2015. Highlights included: The South Bay Fiber Interconnect project will complete its construction phase by October. The Notice-to-Proceed will soon be issued for the Management Center project Gardena Traffic. Of the six traffic signal synchronization program projects, two of them have completed their design phases and are scheduled to advertise in August. These two projects (that are being funded by the 2007 CFP) affect nine South Bay cities (improvements on both Aviation Bl and Crenshaw Bl.) TSSP projects that are being funded by the 2009 CFP have not yet gone into the design phase. Chair Beste added that Metro’s TAC acknowledges that LA County DPW is experiencing the most postponement of CFP project progress, while cities’ CFP projects are moving forward more quickly.
- **Caltrans** – Gary Slater announced that Caltrans District 7 finally has a fully-staffed management team, and this should enable quicker progress and continuity that has been lacking in the District.
- **Metro** -
 - **Board** – Isidro Panuco reported that the sub-regions’ Measure R budget requests are being considered for the Metro Board’s approval the end of this month. This item was originally agendized for April but was deferred for one month to revise one of the sub-region’s lists (not the South Bay request). Mr. Panuco reminded lead agencies with Measure R projects to execute upcoming project Funding Agreements as soon as possible. Teresa Wong mentioned Motion 21 from the October 2014 Metro Board, regarding the possible reorganization of the Call for Projects process. The motion recommended the revision and improvement of future Call for Projects past the 2015 Call by incorporating an evaluation with the stake-holding COG’s and sub-regions of the current process prior to undertaking the LRTP-update and ballot exploration processes. Metro staff was instructed to return to the Board with the examination and recommendations on the possibility of converting the Call for Projects Process into a new sub-regional, multi-modal subvention formula program. This issue will be agendized for the June Metro Board meeting, where Metro staff will explain the survey data from cities on the current CFP process. Metro staff is still in the process of evaluating 2015 CFP applications; the Rainbow Report will be released in June.
 - **TAC and Streets & Freeway Subcommittee** – Wisam Altowaji will begin reporting on the Streets & Freeway Subcommittee next month.

III. Measure R Updates

- **SBHP Implementation Plan Update Workshop** – Steve Lantz thanked those that attended the South Bay Highway Program Implementation Plan workshop on April 30. The SBCCOG will be scheduling follow-up meetings with each individual Measure R lead agency to discuss issues identified at the April 30 workshop and the status of current/upcoming/candidate Measure R projects. Metro is focused on Measure R project cash flow, and is willing to accelerate out-year projects that are ready to begin. Mr. Lantz acknowledged that the drought may be causing Public Works staff to shift priorities, but asked that cities do not forget about their Measure R project progress.
- **SBHP Project Progress Risk Report** (Attachment B) – As a result of the SBCCOG’s efforts to monitor whether Measure R project monthly and quarterly reports are being submitted on time, all but two South Bay lead agencies are on track! Those that have outstanding reports said that the reports would be submitted by the end of the month. Steve Lantz explained that required monthly reports reflect the schedule of a project, and required quarterly reports reflect financial progress of the project. Metro, not the SBCCOG, drives the reporting guidelines. Isidro Panuco has streamlined the monthly report template to make it easier to complete. Mr. Lantz said that a list of outstanding reports will be presented to the SBCCOG Steering Committee each quarter from now on, as opposed to the entire list of Measure R projects. Ted Semaan requested that the SBCCOG provide both a general project management training course and a course on how to partner with multiple agencies on one project for city staff. Jacki Bacharach acknowledged the need for a third training course, which would educate elected officials on the SBHP including a potential change in focus to fund large Measure R projects, since this would fund less small projects.

IV. **Water Issues – May 28, 2015 Drought Workshop flyer** (Attachment C) – Jacki Bacharach announced that the SBCCOG will be hosting an event at which the local water districts and retailers will be addressing drought-preparedness measures. This event will be held at the SBCCOG office on May 28 at 3pm. Ms. Bacharach requested that anyone who wishes to ensure that a topic is added to the event’s agenda let her know as soon as possible. Chair Beste added that private water retailers are distributing information that contradicts some cities’ water ordinances. He cautioned that the ordinances and retailer policies need to be aligned by city staff and councils.

V. **Project Spotlight: State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)** – Gary Slater, the new District 7 Deputy Director for Planning, gave a presentation on Caltrans SHOPP program, which consists of capital improvements that are necessary to preserve and protect the state highway system. Projects included in the program are limited to capital improvements related to maintenance, safety, and rehabilitation of state highways and bridges which do not add a new traffic lane to the system. There are eight categories of SHOPP projects: emergency response, collision reduction, mandates, bridge preservation, roadway preservation, mobility, roadside preservation, and facilities. SHOPP projects are identified for future funding in a financially-constrained ten-year plan. Projects from this list are selected based on project readiness (those with completed PIDs (easier and less costly) are programmed first. Projects are expected to be delivered within the four year SHOPP cycle, which is updated every two years.

Within the SBCCOG territory, there are currently twelve programmed projects in the 2014 Statewide SHOPP, seven candidate projects in the 2016 Statewide SHOPP, and twenty-two future projects identified in the 2015 ten-year SHOPP plan. SHOPP projects are based on needs of a freeway or state highway, and are not allocated geographically or by sub-region. This is a reactive program and allows for funds to be taken from the top down. It could take between four to ten years for a newly identified project to be addressed. Steve Lantz asked if the SBCCOG is able to accelerate or backfill South Bay Measure R funds with SHOPP funds and Mr. Slater said that this has never been done and it is most likely not possible. Caltrans is the lead agency for SHOPP projects. It has never allocated funds to a city for a SHOPP project.

VI. **Three-Month Look Ahead** (Attachment D) – Steve Lantz said that the two major items to be addressed over the next two months are the Metro sales tax measure and SBHP Implementation Plan update.

VII. **Adjournment** – Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 1:27pm until June 17, 2015. *Those who wish to include an item on the agenda must send an e-mail to: Marcy@southbaycities.org by June 3, 2015.*