

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee
April 12, 2021
Meeting Minutes
(Held virtually via Zoom)

COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:31 A.M.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach)	James Butts (Inglewood)
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)	George Chen (Torrance)
Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)	Luke Klipp (Supervisor Hahn's Office)

Non-Voting Representatives

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)	Don Szerlip (Metro South Bay Service Council)
James Lee, TOWG (Torrance Transit)	

Also in attendance:

Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit)	Ruben Cervantes (Metro)
Jason Jo (Carson)	Scott Greene (Metro)
Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)	Patrick Chandler (Metro)
Lifan Xu (El Segundo)	Conan Cheung (Metro)
Julian Lee (Lawndale)	Adam Stephenson (Metro)
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)	Anthony Crump (Metro)
Art Reyes (Torrance)	Mark Dierking (Metro)
Joey Garcia (Torrance)	Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)
Jill Crump (Torrance)	Lilly O'Brien (Supervisor Mitchell's Office)
Ryan Plumb (Torrance Transit)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)	Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)
Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)	David Leger (SBCCOG)
Tim Lindholm (Metro)	Tammy Podesta (HNTB)
Joseph Forgiarini (Metro)	Holly Osborne (Public)
Anne Flores (Metro)	

II. Public Comment – no public comments received.

III. Consent Calendar

A. March 8, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED

B. April 2021 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED

MOTION by Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Approved without objection.

IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group Update

Mr. Semaan noted the IWG met on March 10th and heard a presentation from SBCCOG staff on the Local Travel Network project.

B. Transit Operators Working Group Update

Mr. Lee reported that the TOWG met earlier in the month and discussed ongoing COVID-19 impacts on operations and service recovery efforts. There was also discussion on the federal stimulus/recovery bill.

C. Metro Service Council

Mr. Szerlip noted that there were two meetings since the Transportation Committee last met. The Service Council heard presentations on Metro's Fareless System Initiative, an update from the On the Move Riders Club, and FY22 service restoration. Improvements to the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks station are almost complete. The Service Council is considering a return to in-person meetings in the next 3-4 months.

V. Caltrans District 7 South Bay Projects Update

Mr. Shih provided an update on various Caltrans projects taking place in the South Bay. His report with detailed project updates is available here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_SBCCOG%20Caltrans%20project%20041221%20js.xls%20%20-%20%20Compatibility%20Mode.pdf

VI. Measure M MSP Metro Budget Request Amendment - APPROVED

Mr. Lantz explained that the SBCCOG Board approved the Measure M MSP Metro Budget Request in February. SBCCOG staff subsequently completed the Local Travel Network route refinement study and wishes to amend the Measure M Metro Budget Request to include funding for development and installation of signage and sharrows that would mark the network. Amending the request now should not delay Metro Board action and would allow the Local Travel Network project to proceed without delay.

MOTION by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member Pimentel, to **APPROVE** the Measure M MSP Metro Budget Request Amendment. Approved without objection.

VII. Metro Presentation on Draft Findings of Coordinate Public Transit – Human Services Plan

Mr. Cervantes provided a brief presentation on Metro's 2021-2024 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan Update which addresses mobility needs and service gaps for seniors, persons with disabilities, low-income individuals, and veterans by providing a framework of strategies and projects developed through a stakeholder engagement process.

Mr. Cervantes also touched on Metro's implementation from the 2016-2019 plan that provided approximately \$53M in Section 5310 funds to 46 different agencies throughout the County; 84 projects; 1,234 replacement/expansion accessible vehicles; and 32 new/expanded operating projects. As a result, over 200,000 seniors/individuals with disabilities are afforded mobility annually, along with over 4 million one-way passenger trips.

Mr. Cervantes concluded by reviewing the next steps in the approval process, noting that the public comment period closes April 19th with an anticipated distribution of the final Coordinated Plan in Spring 2021. The full presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/Draft%20Coordinated%20Plan%20Presentation%204-12-21.pdf

Committee Chair Horvath thanked Mr. Cervantes for his presentation and asked if there was any opportunity to extend the comment period since it is only one week away. He explained that he would like to be able to distribute the plan to his community so they could provide feedback. Mr. Cervantes will check with the Metro team and report back to the SBCCOG on the feasibility of extending the deadline.

VIII. Metro Presentation on the Airport Metro Connector Station

Mr. Lindholm and Mr. Greene presented an update on the Airport Metro Connector project that will connect the LAX Automated People Mover with the Crenshaw/LAX Line at the Aviation/96th Street Station. Mr. Lindholm touched on the history of the project and major components that make up the station. He also touched on the two-phase approach to construction and the overall project schedule, which is expected to be completed in July 2024. Mr. Greene briefly explained Metro's plans to provide bus-bridge transit service during the first 20 months of the construction period to minimize disruptions to the operations of the Crenshaw/LAX line.

For more detail, the full presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/PRESENTATION_AMC%20CLAX%20April%202021_No%20Video%20cc.pdf

IX. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives

A. Metro Fare Policy Changes: Fare Capping / Fareless System Initiative – APPROVED

Mr. Lantz reviewed the included memo that details the two initiatives and proposes a series of questions to Metro Staff regarding the Fareless System Initiative (FSI) project. The FSI would eliminate fares for selected groups of people, such as low-income, seniors, students, etc. In summary, the memo notes that Metro needs to better understand what a fareless policy would do for ridership, operational costs, and impacts to other transit agencies such as Beach Cities Transit, GTrans, and Torrance Transit.

MOTION by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member Butts, to **APPROVE** the SBCCOG list of questions to pose to Metro. Approved without objection.

B. Traffic Reduction / Congestion Pricing Study

Ms. Bacharach reminded the Committee that SBCCOG staff distributed a brief survey to gauge the South Bay's sentiments on the congestion pricing concept at the request of Mayor Butts. Please review the survey and submit responses to Mr. Leger.

C. Crenshaw North Extension Project

Mr. Chandler explained that the scoping period for the Crenshaw North Extension Project will begin in April and conclude May 28th, with three virtual scoping meetings. The study will evaluate opportunities to extend the Crenshaw/LAX Line north with key transfer stations at the Expo, Purple, and Red Lines and an optional new station serving the Hollywood Bowl. Metro staff will return in May to provide a presentation.

X. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed

XI. Announcements / Adjournment

Committee Member Klipp announced that Metro's Planning and Programming Committee met to discuss allocations of CRRSAA funding (COVID relief funding) and will be allocating approximately \$47M in funding to cities based on each eligible jurisdiction's population share of L. A. County Population.

Mr. Lantz also announced that the SBCCOG received a response to its comments to Caltrans on the I-105 ExpressLanes EIR. He noted that the letter stated that CTC statute requires Metro or the CTC to use surplus revenue from the project to pay back bonds used to build the project before returning those excess funds to the subregions in which they were collected for local projects. This likely means that there will be no surplus revenues for several decades.

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m. to May 10, 2021 at 10:30 a. m.