

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee
December 14, 2020
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)	Alex Monteiro (Hawthorne)
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)	George Chen (Torrance)

Non-Voting Representatives

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

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach)	Kathline King (LAWA)
Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes)	Glenda Silva (LAWA)
Steve Finton (Torrance)	Mark Dierking (Metro)
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)	Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)
Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit)	Tony Skidmore (CDM Smith for LAWA)
Gregory Farr (Caltrans)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)	Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)
Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)	David Leger (SBCCOG)

II. Public Comment – no public comments received.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. November 9, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED**
- B. December 2020 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED**

MOTION by Committee Member Pimentel, seconded by Committee Chair Horvath, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Approved without objection.

IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group Update

Mr. Semaan reported that the IWG met in December and received a presentation from IBI Group on parametric planning and a curb asset management tool that can help cities better plan projects and help manage use of limited curb assets as demand increases. Mr. Semaan thought it was a very informative presentation and suggested a presentation at a future Transportation Committee meeting.

B. Transit Operators Working Group Update

Mr. Lee reported that the TOWG did not meet this month. Ms. Bacharach asked about the status of ridership, particularly as additional COVID-19 lockdowns go into effect. Mr. Lee explained that despite the new restrictions, ridership has only dipped a small percentage in the last several weeks. Ridership continues to be about 40% below pre-pandemic levels. Operators continue to do rear-door boarding only, are not collecting fares, and have installed barriers to protect operators, and implemented other social distancing protocol. He noted that the agencies believe these precautions have helped create a sense of safety for riders that has helped maintain ridership numbers despite increased restrictions.

C. Metro Service Council

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council met last Friday and received presentations on LAWA projects.

V. Presentation: Los Angeles World Airports Airfield and Terminal Modernization Project

Ms. King and Mr. Skidmore provided the Committee an update on LAWA’s Airfield and Terminal Modernization Project (ATMP). Ms. King reviewed the overall project elements including improvements to the airfield, terminals, and roadways. She also discussed key benefits from the project, including thousands of short-term and long-term jobs. The project is currently in the public review period of the CEQA process. Comments are due by February 12, 2021. Mr. Skidmore reviewed some of the analyses that went into the EIR, including reviews of impacts on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, construction noise, and more. The document also proposes mitigation efforts to those identified impacts. For more details, the full presentation can be viewed online here when made available by LAWA: <https://www.southbaycities.org/committees/transportation-committee/transportation-committee-meeting-41>

VI. Measure R SBHP / Measure M MSP Updates

a. Metro Budget Request Process Initiation and Overview

Mr. Lantz explained that SBCCOG staff is working with lead agency staff to discuss the status of their active projects, potential project funding shortfalls, and new project requests. Due to the current financial constraints of the Measure R SBHP and Measure M MSPs, priority will be given to projects in or entering the construction phase. Following that, priority will be given to projects in design and environmental phases. Third priority will be given to new project requests that are ready to enter their environmental or design phase.

b. Modernizing the Metro Highway Program

Mr. Lantz explained that during Mayor James Butts’ term as Metro Board Chair, he initiated a working group of Metro Board staff to examine ways of modernizing the Metro Highway Program. That group has produced a series of recommendations. At their inception, the Measure R and M highway programs were limited to projects that reduced vehicular delay or increased the Level of Service (LOS). The working group decided that vehicle-miles-travelled is a more consistent evaluation measure since the State has transitioned to the same in recent years. The recommendations suggest allowing Active Transportation Projects (ATPs) to be standalone projects, as opposed to minor elements of an LOS project) as had been past policy. The expanded eligibility lists are included in the agenda packet and don’t preclude the prior eligible projects but encourage lead agencies to include ATP. If a project proposal does not include an ATP element, lead agencies will have to explain why not.

VII. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives

Mr. Dierking provided a brief update on the C (Green) Line extension to Torrance, explaining that Metro is starting up the environmental phase and will be starting community meetings in the coming months. Metro will reach out to the SBCCOG to set up a time to brief the Transportation Committee on the project.

Ms. Bacharach took this time to update the Committee on the Metro PAC meeting last week. The Metro Recovery Task Force recommendations were presented to the PAC with public comments due by January 8th. Several representatives at the PAC meeting urged Metro to extend the deadline due to the holidays and the fact that several COGs throughout the region do not have Board meetings in December. Mr. Lantz added that Metro is looking into ways to repurpose and reallocate Local Return funds or Sub-Regional Programs to help fund Metro operations and large capital projects. This item will be discussed in more detail in January.

VIII. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed

IX. Announcements / Adjournment

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m. to January 11, 2021 at 10:30 am.