

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee  
February 8, 2021  
Meeting Minutes  
(Held virtually via Zoom)

**COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:33 A.M.**

**I. Welcome / Self-Introductions**

**In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:**

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach)	Stacey Armato (Hermosa Beach)
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)	Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)

**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:**

Jason Jo (Carson)	Maryam Adhami (LA County DPW)
Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)	Mark Dierking (Metro)
Peter Puglese (Inglewood)	Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)
Julian Lee (Lawndale)	Isidro Panuco (Metro)
Prem Kumar (Manhattan Beach)	Connie Turner (SCE)
Steve Finton (Torrance)	Luke Klipp (Supervisor Hahn's Office)
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)	Jamie Hwang (Supervisor Hahn's Office)
Art Reyes (Torrance)	Tami Podesta (HNTB)
Joey Garcia (Torrance)	Eileen Ryder (Parsons)
Tony Tavares (Caltrans)	Jim Hannon (SB Bicycle Coalition)
Gloria Roberts (Caltrans)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Roger Yoh (Caltrans)	Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)
Hammer Sui (Caltrans)	David Leger (SBCCOG)
Sarah Horn (Caltrans)	

**II. Public Comment** – no public comments received.

**III. Consent Calendar**

- A. December 14, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED**
- B. January 2021 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED**

**MOTION** by Committee Member Pimentel, seconded by Committee Member Armato, 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 January 13<sup>th</sup> and heard a presentation by Kali Fogel with RIITS/Metro about RIITS and SBFN integration. There was also a roundtable discussion on other SBFN-enabled transportation projects. The next IWG meeting will include a presentation by LA County Sanitation Districts on SB1383 and organic waste reduction requirements.

**B. Transit Operators Working Group Update**

Mr. Lee reported that the TOWG met last week and discussed ongoing COVID-19 impacts and the status of the Measure R Decennial Transit Transfer.

### C. Metro Service Council

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting, but will be meeting again later this week. Mr. Szerlip shared that the comment period for the C Line (Green) scoping is open. There will be two public meetings on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### V. Caltrans Update

Caltrans District 7 Director Tony Tavares introduced himself and presented an update on the Caltrans Ambassador Program. The program began in 2020 and aims to foster communication and strengthen partnerships with local communities. He also discussed Caltrans' ongoing efforts to address equity, noting the new Equity Statement that was adopted in December 2020. Mr. Yoh then took some time to review Caltrans projects currently in the environmental, design, and construction phases in the South Bay. The full presentation is available online here:

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation\\_committee/PRESENTATION\\_Ambassador%20Quarterly%20Update%202-8-2021.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/PRESENTATION_Ambassador%20Quarterly%20Update%202-8-2021.pdf)

Committee Chair Horvath thanked Director Tavares and Mr. Yoh for their presentation and asked Mr. Tavares if Caltrans is concerned about potential efforts to use SB1 funding to help replace other lost revenues due to the pandemic. Director Tavares explained that laws were put in place to safeguard against such situations, so as things stand, SB1 funds appear to be safe.

Committee Chair Horvath also noted Caltrans' focus on Active Transportation and non-vehicle modalities, explaining the SBCCOG is focused on similar issues in the South Bay. He asked how Caltrans and the South Bay could better work together to implement safer bike routes/slow-speed lanes that move the traffic off of the dangerous thoroughfares like PCH and on to parallel routes. Ms. Bacharach also shared that the SBCCOG is finishing the Local Travel Network Route Refinement Study. Director Tavares explained that D7 is currently working with cities on a gap analysis for pedestrian and bicycle features which will identify gaps between state and local systems. It will also identify solutions that Caltrans may be able to implement. He also added that D7 would be happy to work with the SBCCOG on applications for SB1 ATP planning grants.

Committee Chair Horvath also asked about permitting issues and if that was something the Ambassador Program would help with. Director Tavares informed him that is exactly what the program aims to help with, adding that it is something he has heard throughout his career at Caltrans and throughout the state. He added that it is best to get Caltrans involved from the beginning so that staff can help guide and navigate the city, hopefully reducing the amount of re-writing necessary.

Mr. Lantz elaborated that the SBCCOG cities have been subject to years-long permitting reviews that are often exacerbated by changing standards. Mr. Lantz asked if there was any possibility of "grandfathering" projects into the requirements of when their application was submitted. Director Tavares explained that it could be possible in certain situations, depending on the revised standards. He cautioned that if the standards revisions are safety related, there would likely be no possibility of grandfathering projects as even Caltrans has to re-design projects if safety standards change.

### VI. Measure R SBHP / Measure M MSP Updates

#### A. FY 2021-22 Measure M Metro Budget Request– APPROVED

#### B. FY 2021-22 Measure R Metro Budget Request – APPROVED

Mr. Lantz reviewed the items, noting they are largely similar in format. He provided an overview of the SBCCOG's Metro Budget Request process and briefly touched on the requests that were submitted. He explained that in the Measure R item, there is also a portion for the previously-approved Transit Transfer projects that were submitted in the FY20-21 budget request. He noted that transferring Measure R funding from the current Highway subfund to a new Transit subfund is considered an amendment of the Measure R Ordinance that triggers a one-year state legislative notice requirement. Accordingly, Metro staff did not act on the transit projects last year. The projects are being re-submitted this year as the Metro Board is expected to vote on the transfer amendment this summer.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Armato, seconded by Committee Chair Horvath, to **APPROVE** the Measure R and Measure M Metro Budget Requests. Approved without objection.

### VII. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives

Mr. Lantz reminded the committee that Metro's C Line (Green) scoping meetings are taking place at the end of the month. He reviewed the two routes being evaluated in the EIR. Both routes will have issues, but Metro hopes

to complete the EIR in the next 12-18 months, followed by design and construction. Under current timelines, the schedule to complete construction of the line takes place between 2030-2033. Metro considers this a “pillar project” that could be accelerated to be finished by the 2028 Olympics. Committee Chair Horvath reminded attendees that the scoping meeting are not only for those cities that have the line running through them, but all surrounding cities.

Mr. Lantz also shared that Metro Board is considering recommendations from its internal Recovery Task Force and efforts to recover lost revenue during the pandemic and rising operations costs. Mr. Lantz also touched on the Fareless System Initiative (FSI) currently being studied at Metro. The FSI was originally proposed to eliminate all fares, which total more than \$250M/year. Implementing the FSI could have significant impacts on Metro’s ability to receive federal capital grant funding. As part of federal grant applications, Metro is required to prove the financial capability to deliver the project, including funding to operate the service. In its most recent full funding grant agreement, Metro had indicated it planned on increasing fares. Rather than eliminate all fares, the Metro Board instructed staff to return with a less sweeping pilot program that would eliminate fares for low income and K-12 students and fare capping. Metro staff has yet to identify where replacement funding would come from.

**VIII. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed**

Ms. Bacharach announced that the SBCCOG Steering Committee will be considering comments to LAWA on the ATMP EIR. The SBCCOG Board will be hearing a presentation by Metro on the C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance. The Board will likely be asked to delegate authority to the Steering Committee to submit a comment letter because the submission deadline will be prior to the next SBCCOG Board meeting.

**IX. Announcements / Adjournment**

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m. to March 8, 2021 at 10:30 am.