

## South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – April 15, 2015

**Attendees:** Rob Beste (Torrance); Gilbert Marquez (Carson); Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); Akbar Farokhi & Alan Leung (Hawthorne); Esther Amaya (Los Angeles); Andy Winje (Rancho Palos Verdes); Elaine Jeng & Didar Khandker (Redondo Beach); Ted Semaan (Torrance); Jimmy Shih & Gary Slater (Caltrans); Pamela Manning & Andres Narvaez (LA County DPW); Isidro Panuco (Metro); Marcy Hiratzka, Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Shivaji Deshmukh (WBMWD); Natasha DeBenon (Arcadis); Liz Suh (CH2M Hill); David Briggs & Jeff Roe (Inspection Services); Lamran Saber (JMD); Ken Berkman (MARRS Corp); Greg Jaquez & Miranda Patton (MNS Engineers); Sam Ekrami (Parsons Brinckerhoff); Anissa Voyiatzes (Psomas); Ty Carter (Siemens); Jim Parker (V.A. Consulting)

Chair Beste called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of March 18, 2015 Minutes** (Attachment A) – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **Agencies & Other Reports-**

– **SBCCOG**

- **Metro Sales Tax / LRTP Letter – SBCCOG Steering Committee Item** - (Attachment B & Exhibit 1) – Steve Lantz announced that the South Bay Cities Mobility Matrix list is complete and submitted to Metro but the list is a living document and may be revised at any time. The SBCCOG is transitioning from the Mobility Matrix list to addressing the Metro Long-Range Transportation Plan Update and the potential sales tax ballot measure ballot. Mr. Lantz thanked the lead agencies for their input on the list. Under the current structure of the proposed sales tax, only five percent of the projects (from all of the sub-regions' lists combined) could be funded with the estimated revenues from a new sales tax. The South Bay would be allocated \$1.5 billion over forty years from this new sales tax. The SBCCOG has asked the Metro Board to consider a funding structure for this new sales tax that is different from Propositions A, C, and Measure R by emphasizing neighborhood mobility rather than regional mobility.
- **SOUTH BAY TRAFFIC FORUM, LA County DPW** – Andres Narvaez distributed the South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report for April 2015. Highlights included: Notice to proceed will soon be issued for the Gardena Traffic Management Center; the South Bay Fiber Interconnect project should be completed by October 2015; Manhattan Beach is considering deployment of CommunityView cable TV service/BlueCommute pending resolution of an issue with the television equipment, making this the third South Bay city to operate this program.
- **Caltrans** – Jimmy Shih made the following Measure R Caltrans project updates:
  - **MR312.11 (DCCM) ITS: I-405, I-110, I-105, SR-91 at freeways ramp/arterial signalized intersections** – Construction to begin in April 2015.
  - **MR312.24 PAED I-110 Aux lane from SR-91 to Torrance Blvd Aux lane & 405/110 Connector** – Draft Project Report is still being worked on but is on target for June 2015.
  - **MR312.25 PAED I-405 at 182nd St./Crenshaw Boulevard** – Environmental document circulation to conclude by April 30.
- **Metro Reports -**
  - **Metro Board Updates** – Isidro Panuco announced that this month, the Metro Board will be considering the updated SBHP budget request for approval. Three projects, one being a study, have been added for the Cities of Lawndale and Torrance. Mr. Panuco also acknowledged the City of Hawthorne for its completion of the Hawthorne Blvd Mobility Improvement Measure R project, and reminded lead agencies to submit their reports to Metro and the SBCCOG on time.
  - **Metro TAC & Streets/Freeway Subcommittee** – Regarding the TAC, Chair Beste asked anyone with a TOD planning grant project application to appeal to let him know as soon as possible. In July 2014, staff received 17 applications requesting a total of \$8,716,446 in funds. On January 29, 2015, the Board awarded \$6,325,000 in funding to 14 projects. The Board also directed staff to develop an appeal process that would provide unsuccessful applicants an opportunity to appeal funding decisions and develop a deobligation process for non-performing projects. Staff has developed both processes and has incorporated them into the Program Guidelines and Lapsing Policy. Metro staff will initiate the appeals process for the Round 4 unsuccessful applicants and anticipates that the appeals would be considered by the TAC on April 1, 2015. If the TAC recommends a project for funding, staff will return to the Board in May to seek funding approval of the TAC's recommendations.

Elaine Jeng reported that the Metro Board adopted a Complete Streets Policy in October 2014 and effective January 1, 2017, all local jurisdictions within LA County must adopt a Complete Streets Policy, an adopted City Council Resolution supporting Complete Streets, or an adopted General Plan consistent with the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 in order to be eligible for Metro capital grant funding programs, starting with the

2017 grant cycles. Steve Lantz added that if a city does not adopt a Complete Streets Policy, that city is not eligible for Measure R SBHP funds. Metro will be asked to give a presentation to the IWG at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Jeng introduced Didar Khandker as the new Redondo Beach engineer who will be reporting on the City's Measure R projects, and announced that she will be leaving the City at the end of April. Ms. Jeng was commended for her dedication to the Metro Streets & Freeways Subcommittee and her involvement with the South Bay IWG.

### III. **Measure R Updates**

- **SBHP Implementation Plan Mandatory Workshop, April 30** – Steve Lantz thanked the lead agency staff members who have confirmed their attendance. The morning session will focus on the activity over the first five years of the program and the afternoon session will focus on how to move forward and accommodate changes in the SBHP.
- **SBHP Project Progress Risk Report** - (Attachment C) – Mr. Lantz emphasized the two key focal points that Metro and the SBCCOG are monitoring: 1. are monthly and quarterly reports being submitted on time, and; 2. are the projects making progress toward completion and close out? The deobligation/deferral process has changed since July 2014. SBCCOG staff will send a reminder to the lead agency for each monthly and quarterly report that is not received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the applicable month. SBCCOG staff will inform the Steering Committee of any past due reports on a quarterly basis. The Steering Committee will consider extenuating circumstances raised by the Lead Agency and will be asked by staff to approve deferral or deobligation of any project that has not submitted required reports or made suitable progress by the next regularly scheduled Steering Committee meeting. Project deferral or deobligation recommendations by the Steering Committee will be forwarded to the next regularly scheduled SBCCOG Board Meeting for approval. The Lead Agency may appeal the Steering Committee recommendation at the SBCCOG Board Meeting. Following SBCCOG Board action, SBCCOG staff will inform Metro that the SBCCOG recommends project termination pursuant to the funding agreement. Project funding agreements will need to be terminated consistent with the terms of the funding agreement between Metro and the Lead Agency. Actions related to project deferral or deobligation implemented by Metro will be reflected in the next Metro Budget Request submitted by the SBCCOG Board to L. A. Metro. If the SBCCOG Board approves this process, SBCCOG staff will inform Metro and include the new process in the next update of the South Bay Highway Program Implementation Plan.

- IV. **Project Spotlight: Drought Proof Solutions for Southern California** – Sivaji Deshmukh of West Basin Municipal Water District gave a broad presentation on West Basin's response to the drought. West Basin purchases imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and wholesales the imported drinking and recycled water to cities and private companies in southwest Los Angeles County. Originally an imported water wholesaler, WBMWD has developed into a recognized leader in the production of recycled water and water conservation education. California's water infrastructure and statewide water supply challenges were explained. West Basin's water supply portfolio consists of 75% imported water and 25% groundwater, and within that supply, West Basin provides five designer waters to its customers: Tertiary (irrigation), nitrified (cooling tower), indirect potable (groundwater recharge), reverse-osmosis single pass, and reverse-osmosis double pass. To protect the local groundwater basin from seawater intrusion, West Basin provides water for injection into the South Bay's seawater barriers. West Basin has saved over 165 billion gallons of water using these methods. The controversial issue of desalination was explained, four major action areas of Governor Brown's Executive Order B-29-15 were listed, and considerations of MWD's Water Supply Allocation Plan were presented. The MWD Board recently voted to reduce the amount of water sold to its twenty-six distributors by fifteen percent. Mr. Deshmukh also distributed a list of upcoming funding opportunities to the cities through IRWMP. Steve Lantz asked where the South Bay's water supply stands, regarding the drought. Mr. Deshmukh said that the South Bay is in good shape, and the MWD emergency reserves have not yet been drawn upon. Elaine Jeng asked about the future plans for the desalination plant in Redondo Beach and Mr. Deshmukh said that the plant was only contracted to be operational for three years, so it will be demolished. Gary Slater asked what the challenges are in supplying purple pipe water to customers and Mr. Deshmukh said that often, eligible customers are not located close enough to West Basin's recycled water distribution system.

- V. **Three-Month Look Ahead** (Attachment D) – Steve Lantz noted that in May, the Steering Committee will be considering SBHP Project deferral, based on late reports and/or a lack of project progress based on reports.

### VI. **Announcements / Adjournment** –

"Understanding Community Choice Energy: A Forum for California Local Governments" (Attachment E) – Steve Lantz announced that on May 18, 2015 at the Biltmore Hotel, the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) in partnership with LEAN Energy US will hold a day-long Community Choice Energy Forum for local government decision-makers, staff members and key stakeholders. Registration information can be found on the flyer.

Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 1:06 pm until May 20, 2015 (*agency staff only.*) *Those who wish to include an item on the agenda must send an e-mail to: [Marcy@southbaycities.org](mailto:Marcy@southbaycities.org) by May 8, 2015.*