

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee
January 11, 2021
Meeting Minutes
(Held virtually via Zoom)

COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:31 A.M. A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AT 11 A. M. UPON THE ARRIVAL OF MAYOR BUTTS

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)
James Butts (Inglewood)	

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. December 14, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED

B. January 2021 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED

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

IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group Update

Mr. Semaan noted the IWG has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting.

B. Transit Operators Working Group Update

Mr. Lee reported that the TOWG met last week and discussed ongoing COVID-19 impacts, Metro's Recovery Task Force recommendations, and the Green Line Extension to Torrance.

C. Metro Service Council

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council met last Friday and received presentations on Metro's customer experience plan and a presentation on the Green Line Extension to Torrance project.

V. Caltrans Update

Mr. Shih noted there were no updates at this time. Ms. Bacharach announced that Caltrans has become very involved in the SBCCOG Homeless Services Task Force and is working with Hawthorne to potentially use a Caltrans property within the city for temporary housing or safe parking.

VI. Measure R SBHP / Measure M MSP Updates

A. FY21-22 Metro Budget Request Process

Mr. Lantz announced that SBCCOG staff is currently reviewing the project funding augmentation requests as well as requests for new projects. The items will be brought to the February Transportation Committee for action.

VII. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives

A. Presentation by Metro Staff on COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Recommendations

1. SBCCOG Comments on Metro Recovery Task Force Recommendations

Mr. Vallianatos gave a brief presentation on the Metro Recovery Task Force's recommendations to the Metro Board. Mr. Vallianatos explained that the Metro CEO created the task force in April to respond to the impacts of the pandemic. Metro's FY21 budget is 16% lower than FY20, with the capital budget approximately 1/3 lower. Metro is concerned that as the pandemic continues, transit ridership will remain low while car ownership rises, leading to additional congestion. Metro's goal is for the Recovery Task Force recommendations to help the County combat negative outcomes of the pandemic and to emerge with better mobility and more equity than pre-pandemic.

Mr. Vallianatos briefly reviewed the task force's 20 early action items and 17 additional recommendations that are meant to improve mobility, advance equity in LA County, and identify ways to help pay for these improvements.

The recommendations include options for new and improved services such as use of express buses on improved HOV/ExpressLanes; acceleration of the complete street networks, integration of transit service throughout the county, incentives to reduce car ownership; and improved station amenities.

The Task Force is also making recommendations to improve Metro's responsiveness by improving public engagement and strengthening rider voices; gathering more data on equity and travel patterns; and increased transparency.

Task Force recommendations also aim to create a vibrant future by accelerating joint development and transit-oriented communities; expanding the region's broadband infrastructure; creating green jobs via green infrastructure; and reimaging Destination Discounts.

In order to pay for these improvements, the Task Force is recommending saving money by study ways to reduce capital construction costs; building staff capacity to reduce reliance on consultants; and use of unallocated revenues from Measure R and M ordinances. They are also recommending new revenue sources such as expansion of commercial and lease revenue and incentives to reduce car ownership.

Metro is currently accepting comments through February 8th, 2021 which can be submitted to COVID19recovery@metro.net

For more detail about the individual recommendations, the full presentation is available online here: https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/PRESENTATION_Recovery%20Task%20Force%20Presentation%20Jan%202021.pdf

Ms. Bacharach asked about the recommendation increasing HOV lanes and if it applied to ExpressLanes as well. Mr. Vallianatos explained that those are also included and that the recommendations were almost all based off other projects/initiatives already in the works at Metro.

Committee Chair Horvath asked if the Office of Extraordinary Innovation is looking into innovative Public-Private Partnerships that may help deliver projects in a more timely and cost-effective manner. Mr. Vallianatos noted that staff is currently working on PPPs for two major projects and would continue to consider that option.

Committee Member Valentine asked Mr. Vallianatos to elaborate on the recommendation to integrate transit throughout the region, noting that it sounds like something that should be implemented. Mr.

Vallianatos explained that the concept would be similar to the TAP program but would also involve schedule update cycles and more. He explained that when Metro updates a schedule for example, that may create gaps in service if other operators don't simultaneously adjust their schedules to fill those gaps.

2. SBCCOG Draft Letter to Metro Regarding Metro Recovery Task Force Recommendations

Ms. Bacharach explained that the letter was drafted in response to the Task Force Recommendations and shared that since so many recommendations have funding attached to them, the Metro Board should receive a comprehensive financial analysis of what funding Metro will likely have over the next few years so they can make informed decisions on what recommendations to prioritize. The SBCCOG is concerned that the Metro Board will approve the plan in its entirety without having a strong idea of what resources they have. Ms. Bacharach also suggested adding a request in the letter that Metro consider funding neighborhood electric vehicles if Metro is looking to incentivize non-car ownership.

Committee Chair Horvath suggested the proposed letter be discussed further at the Steering Committee meeting following this meeting.

VIII. Presentation: C (Green) Line Extension to Torrance EIR Scope and Process Update

Mr. Dierking explained that the Green Line supplemental alternatives analysis (SAA) was completed in 2018 and that Metro is now going back to the public as part of the EIR process. He introduced Mr. Mieger and Ms. Roybal Saltarelli who presented on the project.

Mr. Mieger provided the Committee a brief overview of the project and its history. He explained that after the previous work, Metro is considering two alternatives from the SAA that will be carried into the Draft EIR. The two alternatives include the Metro Railroad ROW and Hawthorne Blvd. alignments. He noted that south of 190th street, both alignments are identical.

Ms. Roybal Saltarelli continued the presentation by reviewing the two alternatives in more detail and the environmental process and the study topics covered by the EIR. The scoping period for the project is January 29th – March 15th with two scoping meetings planned for February 24th and 27th (virtually). The Draft EIR is expected to be released in Spring 2022, followed by the final EIR in Winter/Spring 2023. The groundbreaking is currently scheduled for 2026 with opening taking place in 2030-2033. Metro staff is still committed to efforts to deliver the project in time for the 2028 Olympics as the project was included on the "28 by '28" plan.

For more detail, the presentation is available here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/PRESENTATION_C-Green%20Line%20Update_Jan2021.pdf

Committee Chair Horvath shared that the scoping meetings will likely be filled with a lot of questions and concerns from residents and asked if the Metro team will be able to answer questions at those meetings or if they are just gathering input. Mr. Mieger explained that Metro is hoping to get questions in advance so that answers can be provided during the meeting. Now that there is data available to show, the scoping meetings are the place to discuss specifics about the project. Metro staff is also going door-to-door in areas that are facing the ROW.

Mr. Szerlip asked about Metro's Grade Separation Policy and if that affects the intersections at Redondo Beach Blvd and Artesia Blvd. Mr. Mieger explained that grade separation is being evaluated.

B. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed

Committee Member Pimentel took this time to bring up the LAWA Airfield and Terminal Modernization Project EIR. The City of El Segundo is concerned that although LAWA claims the project is in response to growth, but El Segundo believes it is actually inducing growth by expanding the number of gates at the airport. He also noted that there are no mitigations identified to relieve pressure on the I-405 and PCH caused by the project. The City is hoping that a regionalization effort could be brought back to help share air traffic with other airports in the region. Ms. Bacharach shared that LAWA will be presenting on the project at the January Board of Directors meeting and that the SBCCOG will likely be submitting a comment letter.

C. Announcements / Adjournment

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m. to February 8, 2021 at 10:30 am.