

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transit Operators' Working Group

January 9, 2020

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney, Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Kim Turner (via phone), Godfrey Offoegbu, James Lee (Torrance Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the November 19, 2019 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns

Ms. Scott reported that Beach Cities Transit recently completed their compliance review audit and received no findings.

3) Evaluation of Applications Submitted for Measure M & R Call for Projects

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro staff recently provided the SBCCOG with updated funding availability for the Measure R SBHP and Measure M MSPs. Metro's document indicated that there is approximately \$30M in Measure R South Bay sub-regional funding to program over the next 5 years. This means that there is insufficient funding to complete current projects beyond phases already committed to in funding agreements, as well as no funding for new Transit or Highway projects. The Measure R program is set to begin receiving large annual allocations again in the latter half of the decade and through 2039. Mr. Lantz explained that Mayor Butts will be meeting with Metro CEO Washington to discuss this issue.

Mr. Lantz discussed the issue of the timing of funding and asked if the transit project applications would be negatively impacted. The group indicated that most projects were set to be completed (or significantly underway) in the first 5 years of the decade. Mr. Lantz noted that the Inglewood Transit Connector project is also impacted, and that Mayor Butts may consider advocating for a financing strategy that would allow the money to be spent upfront and paid back over time. Mr. Lantz cautioned that this is only one potential path forward and that nothing has been determined at this time.

Ms. Pynn asked Mr. Lantz what the next steps would be. Mr. Lantz explained that the first step would be to review the schedule for determining the Measure R Decennial Transfer Policy consideration process that could allow Measure R highway sub-funds to be transferred to the Measure R Transit Sub-fund. If a transfer is approved, transit projects would be eligible for Measure R SBHP funding. Transit operators were asked to submit project applications by October 31, 2019 with the understanding that the Transfer Policy would need to be approved by Metro in order for the transit applications to be considered. The TOWG could identify any potential issues with the proposed transfer policy and report them back to Mike Bohlke, Metro Board Chair Butts' Deputy. Mayor Butts would then have to bring those concerns to the Metro Board. The last step would be to monitor the implementation going forward.

As part of this discussion, Mr. Lantz handed out the revised Measure R and M funding availability spreadsheets provided by Metro and a summary of project applications (available here: <http://southbaycities.org/committees/transit-operators-working-group/transit-operators-working-group-meeting-24>). SBCCOG staff will be meeting with Metro Programming staff to explore the availability of other funding sources and financing strategies during the next five years.

4) Transit Operator Working Group Recommended Draft Selection Criteria for Measure R SBHP Transfer Policy Transit Projects

Mr. Lantz explained that a SBCCOG Transportation Committee subcommittee is being formed between the IWG and TOWG that will consider selection criteria as well as a potential uniform match policy for both Measure R and M projects. Mr. Lee will be the Transit Operator Working Group representative to the subcommittee.

5) NextGen Study Status

No discussion on this item.

6) “Micro by Metro” Microtransit Pilot Project

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro staff is going to request a 6-month extension of the pilot project to provide more data for all three study areas.

7) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update

GTrans is beginning to work on MOUs and will continue to report back.

8) Metro Transit to Parks Initiative

Ms. Rooney noted that this initiative was started by Metro during the summer and is a study on using transit to bring more residents to local parks.

9) Announcements/Adjournment – Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m. to February 6th, 2020 at Gtrans’ offices.