

**South Bay Cities Council of Governments**  
**Transit Operators' Working Group**  
 July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
**Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Diane Amaya & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Jason Jo (Carson); Ernie Crespo (GTrans); Kim Turner, Godfrey Offoegbu, & James Lee (Torrance Transit); Martin Gombert (PV Transit); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

**1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the June 4, 2020 Meeting Notes**

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

**2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns Including COVID-19 Impacts**

Mr. Lantz opened up discussion for the agencies to share issues and concerns in general and pandemic-related.

Mr. Lee and Ms. Turner shared that Torrance Transit is currently retrofitting busses with custom, in-house built barriers to help protect against the spread of COVID-19. Seating is currently staggered, and buses fit 15 seated and 3 standing riders maximum. Cleaning protocols have been enhanced and laid-off employees have been brought back to help with the additional sanitizing work. Ridership is starting to climb and currently stands at about 40-45% of pre-pandemic levels.

Mr. Gombert reported that since the pandemic started, PV Transit's Route 225 has been operating with two buses. Dial-A-Ride service has gone up 35% in June after sharp declines since March. School re-openings will determine how the agency moves forward with returning service. Separately, AB 5 and the concern of a collapsing taxi industry is a worry because Dial-A-Ride service is operated by taxi cabs.

Ms. Amaya explained that Beach Cities Transit is also using enhanced sanitization efforts including the spray gun disinfectant. Similar to the issue facing PV Transit, the future BCT schedule is heavily guided by school re-openings. If schools went back in session full time, and 6-feet social distancing is required on buses, BCT faces a shortage in buses.

Mr. Crespo reported that GTrans is implementing similar protocol as Torrance Transit and has started installing partitions, using enhanced AC filters, and implementing rear-door boarding. GTrans is currently planning on returning to about 80% pre-pandemic service levels in mid-August.

Mr. Jo announced that Carson has maintained the full suspension of service. The Lyft pilot program is over and experienced significant ridership growth in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> months of the program. A one-year contract is being considered.

**3) Measure R SBHP Decennial Transfer Update & Metro Budget Request Update**

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro is planning to notify the Legislature of the intention to amend Measure R by mid-July so that at the July 2021 Metro Board meeting, the Board can officially vote to amend the ordinance. The South Bay proposed transit capital projects were included in a footnote in the revised Measure R Expenditure Plan which helps secure those projects for approval as much as possible until the Metro Board takes formal action to allocate funding to the footnoted projects.

**4) NextGen Study Status Update**

Mr. Lantz explained that the recommendations for NextGen service changes will be handled in Phase 4 of the Metro recovery plan. Mr. Crespo noted that the South Bay Service Council meeting is taking place tomorrow and they will be hearing an update on NextGen. Public hearings are currently scheduled for September.

Mr. Lantz also reported that Metro is working on updating the Long-Range Transportation Plan which the SBCCOG expects to submit comments on. Metro is considering the use of a 20-cent/mile fee for all drivers, which is expected to generate \$2,400/person/year. That funding would be dedicated to transit rather than highways uses. Metro expects that a 20-cents per mile price-point is what is needed to push a significant number of drivers to use transit, part of Metro's plan to aggressively increase ridership over the next 30 years.

**5) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update**

Mr. Crespo reported that GTrans is still in talks with Inglewood but noted that the biggest variable is if/when spectators return to the stadium. It is likely that gameday service will not begin until spectators are back to the stadium in volume.

**6) July 2020 Transportation Report – Received and Filed**

**7) Announcements/Adjournment – Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m. to August 6th, 2020.