

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Transit Operators' Working Group

July 8, 2021

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Jason Jo (Carson); Leslie Scott & Diane Amaya (Beach Cities Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); Martin Gombert (PV Transit); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the May 6, 2021 Meeting Notes

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

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

Mr. Lantz opened discussion for the agencies to share pandemic and general issues and concerns.

Ms. Amaya shared that Beach Cities Transit has started evening trips again, but continues to not enforce fare collection. The Transit Center is under construction, with an anticipated completion of January 2022.

Ms. Pynn shared GTrans started front-door boarding and began reinforcing fare collection at the beginning of the fiscal year. The GTrans building has also reopened to the public.

Mr. Gombert noted that PV Transit is still running a modified weekend service, but is expected to return to regular service in August.

Mr. Jo reported that Carson is still considering service planning options with Long Beach and will be gathering City Council feedback on the options. Dial-a-Ride and Lyft are the only services provided by the city at this time. Buses continue to be paused until further notice.

3) Measure R Decennial Transit Transfer Update

Mr. Lantz provided a brief update on the transit transfer process. He explained that the Metro Board will be approving the ordinance amendment at their meeting this month. He expects the program will be administered by the multi-modal planning department. Funding agreements will be able to be executed following Metro Board approval of the transit projects list submitted to Metro by the SBCCOG.

4) Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

- Metro Highway Program Modernization

Mr. Lantz shared that Metro has expanded the definition of eligible highway projects to also include active transportation and transportation demand management projects that reduce vehicle miles travelled. He expects final guidelines will be presented to the Metro Board in September.

- Metro Fareless System Initiative

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro staff will be presenting to the Board in July on Phase 1 implementation. This pilot phase will help Metro identify funding sources to maintain the Phase 1 riders (K-14 students) and explore opportunities to fund Phase 2 (low-income riders). American Rescue Plan funds will pay for the Phase 1 pilot study. Ms. Pynn noted that Metro has indicated to the municipal operators that they should also use American Rescue Plan funds to pay for the FSI, and that Metro will not be reimbursing them for lost revenues. Metro continues to work with other operators, but there is ongoing discomfort among the other operators around the logistics of implementation.

- Crenshaw/LAX Project / Centinela Grade Separation Project SEP Funding

The City of LA has not yet committed to paying their share of the cost overruns so everything seems to be on hold at the moment. In the meantime, the Airport Connector project will interrupt the operations of the Crenshaw/LAX Line for approximately 20 months. There will be an alternate operating plan developed, but the exact details have not yet been determined.

- South Bay Fiber Network Phase 2 Scope / Manhattan Beach MBATS Funding

Mr. Lantz shared that the SBCCOG is nearing completion of the SBFN project Phase 1 and is beginning to look at applications (Phase 2). The Manhattan Beach Advanced Traffic Signal Program may serve as an opportunity to get transit vehicle priority. He encouraged the operators to consider cost-effective transit applications that could help in vehicle speed, efficiency, safety or other transportation-related ways. The operators asked for assistance obtaining a speaker to help educate them on the potential transportation benefits of connecting to the SBFN.

5) **July 2021 Transportation Update:** Item was received and filed.

6) **Three Month Look-Ahead:** Item was received and filed.

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

Ms. Pynn announced that GTrans will be taking a plan to Council that would serve the SoFi Stadium and Inglewood Sports Complex on Sundays (all day) for \$4 from the Harbor Gateway Transit Center. If approved, the service would begin September 12th. It is hoped that this service will be expanded in the future to be on a more regular basis. GTrans is also considering a microtransit pilot service that would begin in April 2022 and will possibly take the place of Line 4. This would use the RideCo software with GTrans vans/operators, using virtual stops. The idea is to comingle this service with paratransit service to maximize the paratransit service in the downtime they have. The program would be restricted only by location (you must be in Gardena, but are not required to be a resident of the city).

Ms. Scott asked for any suggestions for firms that handle property management for transit centers. Redondo Beach will be issuing an RFP for the Transit Center property management.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to August 12, 2021 at 3 p.m.