

## South Bay Cities Council of Governments

### Transit Operators' Working Group

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Meeting Notes

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

#### 1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the May 7, 2020 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 3:47 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 general impacts of COVID-19 and the recent social unrest.

Ms. Pynn shared that GTrans has stopped service in conjunction with the local curfews. GTrans has started adding additional service at high-use stops as part after reducing service due to COVID-19. They are currently looking at a sanitizing system called HALO to help ensure buses are sanitized. The City's 2-year budget was presented at a May City Council meeting and will be voted on in June. She noted that CARES Act funding will help alleviate some financial impacts but will not solve all of the problems. The City is considering furloughs and layoffs if necessary. Capital projects don't appear to be impacted right now.

Ms. Rooney explained that Beach Cities Transit is also bringing some weekend service back. However, 80% of riders have not yet returned to the system. School re-openings will really drive what the schedule looks like as Beach Cities Transit provides service to a large portion of students during the school year.

Mr. Lee shared that Torrance is in a similar position to the other two agencies. CARES Act will help with the FY20 budget, but FY21 and FY22 may be difficult if additional federal funding is not provided. Service was curtailed after the civil unrest started, but some was required for essential hospital workers.

Mr. Gombert reported that PV Transit hasn't seen any impacts due to the social unrest as it was very peaceful in the area. The curfews have not really impacted service due to PVTA's regular service ending at 7pm. The budget will be heard later in June and the agency will likely have several revisions due to reductions in Prop A local return, the main funding source.

#### 3) Metro Mobility and Affordability Recovery Plan

Mr. Lantz briefly reviewed Metro's COVID-19 Mobility and Affordability Recovery Plan which is a response to the revenue loss and includes: a request to consultants to reduce fees by 2%; freeze pay raises; reduce staffing levels; and also includes fare policy revisions for a 6-month time period once regular service resumes. The plan also tasks Metro staff with a comprehensive fare restructuring proposal.

#### 4) Measure R SBHP Decennial Transfer Update & Metro Budget Request Update

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board will be voting on an item in June that will notify the State Legislature of their intention to amend the Measure R ordinance to facilitate the transfer of funds from the Measure R Highway Subfund to the Measure R Transit Subfund. Because changes in the Measure R Ordinance require one-year notice to the state legislature, transit capital funding will not be available until after July 2021. Metro Board staff are not likely to seek contingent approval of the transit capital project list submitted by the SBCCOG Board.

#### 5) NextGen Study Status Update

Mr. Lantz explained that the recommendations for NextGen will be handled in Phase 4 of the Metro recovery plan. Torrance Transit added that they have been in ongoing talks with Metro about taking over Line 130.

#### 6) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update

Ms. Pynn noted that GTrans is still in discussion to provide service, but with the impacts of COVID-19 on fan attendance at games still to be determined, it's unsure when their service will begin.

**7) June 2020 Transportation Report – Received and Filed**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m. to July 9th, 2020.