

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Transit Operators' Working Group

March 4, 2021
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney, Leslie Scott & Diane Amaya (Beach Cities Transit); James Lee & Ryan Plumb (Torrance Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Steve Lantz, Jacki Bacharach & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the February 4, 2021 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:03 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.

Participants noted that their operations and fare collection suspension remain largely unchanged since February's meeting. The group briefly discussed the funding allocations expected in the COVID-19 recovery package currently being discussed in Washington. There was a specific discussion at SCAG's Regional Council meeting regarding disbursement of CARES and CRRSA funds within the SCAG region. Mr. Lantz will confirm SCAG's deliberations and provide an update to the group via email.

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

Mr. Lantz shared that the Measure R Metro Budget Request was approved by the SBCCOG Board and transmitted to Metro staff. The transfer may be formally approved by the Metro Board in July. The City of Inglewood wants Metro to include the SBCCOG's recommended list of projects for approval at that same time, but Metro staff may want to develop guidelines related to the newly-created Measure R Transit Subfunds which could further delay funding.

4) Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

- **Recovery Task Force Recommendations**

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro staff presented a recovery proposal that proposed 7M service hours in December 2021. The Metro Board felt it was too slow and instructed staff to implement phase 1 in June 2021 and be back to 7M service hours by September. Mr. Greene added that Metro is currently hiring and training bus drivers so they can ramp up service in the Board's instructed timeframe.

- **Metro FY 22 Revenue Service Hour Program**

Discussed under Recovery Task Force Recommendation item above.

- **Metro Fareless System Initiative**

Metro cannot implement a program until 2022, so the item will continue to be monitored.

- **Metro Fare Capping Strategy**

Metro staff has not acknowledged a fare capping strategy as discussed by Metro Board Staff as an alternative to a fareless initiative.

- **Metro Traffic Reduction Study/ Congestion Pricing Pilot**

Metro is considering 3-4 pilot study areas, including a corridor pricing structure along the 10 freeway (from I-405 to Downtown LA), two corridors linking Downtown to the San Fernando Valley, and a cordon pricing structure around Downtown LA. Metro staff is hoping to implement improved transit service within the selected area(s) before implementing the pilot projects. Several Metro Board members have expressed concerns about the proposal costs and revenue sources that would be needed to replace forgone fares.

- **Metro Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Project**

Mr. Lantz reported this project proposal would eventually link the Metrolink station in the valley to LAX via the Sepulveda Pass. Phase 1 would provide a rail line between the San Fernando Valley and the Exposition Line. Metro has identified approximately \$5.8 billion in funding for the project. One proposal, for a monorail system down the center of the I-405 would cost approximately \$6.2 billion. This option would be in the median of the I-405 freeway but would not include a stop at UCLA. A subway proposal is also being considered, which would be aerial in the San Fernando Valley and in a tunnel to the Exposition Line. The

subway segment would include a stop at UCLA, and would cost approximately \$10 billion. The March Metro Board Agenda item is to select two technical consultant teams, one for the subway technology and the other for the monorail technology. Metro is working on both proposals concurrently, and will “off-ramp” the team of whichever technology does not get selected.

- **Crenshaw/LAX Project Update**

There were not many updates available. Mr. Lantz noted that the SBCCOG has provided conditional approval for use of Measure M SEP funds to help pay for the South Bay’s share of the cost overruns. However, the City of LA has not yet committed.

- **CEO Succession**

Mr. Lantz that Metro CEO Phil Washington decided to not renew his contract which ends in May. Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti indicated his desire to do a nationwide search while other Board members want to choose a CEO with L. A. County experience.

5) SBCCOG Scoping Letter for C (Green) Line Extension EIR

Mr. Lantz briefly reviewed the SBCCOG’s proposed comment letter and the points made within it. Mr. Lee shared that the Torrance City Council formally supported Alternative 1 for the extension which would use the existing Metro right of way. Torrance did not specify a profile preference. Ms. Rooney noted that Redondo Beach may take a position in the coming weeks as well, but noted she is not sure what alternative would be selected.

6) March 2021 Transportation Update: Item was received and filed.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. to April 1, 2021 at 3 p.m.