

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee  
March 8, 2021  
Meeting Minutes  
(Held virtually via Zoom)

**COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:32 A.M.**

**I. Welcome / Self-Introductions**

**In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:**

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach)	James Butts (Inglewood)
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)	Luke Klipp (Supervisor Hahn's Office)
Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)	

**Non-Voting Representatives**

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)	Leslie Scott, TOWG (Beach Cities Transit)
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**Also in attendance were the following persons:**

Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)	Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)
Lifan Xu (El Segundo)	Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)
Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes)	Mark Dierking (Metro)
Steve Finton (Torrance)	Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)	Jamie Hwang (Supervisor Hahn's Office)
Art Reyes (Torrance)	Jim Hannon (SB Bicycle Coalition)
Joey Garcia (Torrance)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Jill Crump (Torrance)	Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)
Gregory Farr (Caltrans)	David Leger (SBCCOG)

**II. Public Comment** – no public comments received.

**III. Consent Calendar**

**A. February 8, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED**

**B. March 2021 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED**

**MOTION** by Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Chair Horvath, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Approved without objection.

**IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates**

**A. Infrastructure Working Group Update**

Mr. Semaan noted the IWG met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed the C (Green) Line Scoping comments and the comment period deadline. The group also received a presentation by the Sanitation Districts of LA County on their ability to help cities comply with SB 1383, which requires reduction of organic waste going into landfills. The Sanitation Districts can help cities convert organic waste into renewable natural gas.

**B. Transit Operators Working Group Update**

Ms. Scott reported that the TOWG met on February 4<sup>th</sup> and discussed ongoing COVID-19 impacts on operations and service recovery efforts.

**C. Metro Service Council**

Mr. Szerlip's update for the South Bay Service Council meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> was handed out and is available online here:

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation\\_committee/HANDOUT\\_Metro%20South%20Bay%20Service%20Council%20Monthly%20Meeting%20Review%20for%20February%2012%2C%202021.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_Metro%20South%20Bay%20Service%20Council%20Monthly%20Meeting%20Review%20for%20February%2012%2C%202021.pdf)

## V. Caltrans Update

Mr. Shih reported that the I-405/I-110 interchange project is expected to be completed by the end of the 2021 calendar year. The I-405/Crenshaw Blvd. project is expected to be awarded in April 2021.

## VI. Measure R SBHP / Measure M MSP Metro Budget Request Update

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Budget Requests were transmitted to Metro following SBCCOG Board approval at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Measure R Decennial Transfer policy is expected to be approved by the Metro Board in July, upon completion of the one-year notice requirement to the Legislature.

## VII. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives

### A. C (Green) Line Update

#### 1. C (Green) Line SBCCOG Scoping Comment Letter - APPROVED

Mr. Dierking announced that Metro received a request to extend the comment period deadline until March 29<sup>th</sup>, which they will grant.

Mr. Lantz briefly reviewed the SBCCOG's proposed comment letter. Mr. Klipp asked if the letter should be clarified to specifically state what track profiles are supported. Chair Horvath added that cities along the proposed project may have differing preferences, depending on the final track alignment chosen. He also added that the City of Lawndale may now be interested in having a station if the project goes down Hawthorne Blvd. It was proposed that the letter be clarified to state the SBCCOG's support for studying station locations and profiles requested by local jurisdictions.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Klipp, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **APPROVE** the SBCCOG comment letter as amended. Approved without objection.

### B. Recovery Plan

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board instructed staff to accelerate the staff recommended recovery plan to bring Metro back to 7 million annual service hours by September as opposed to the original staff recommendation of a December recovery date.

### C. Traffic Reduction / Congestion Pricing Study

Mr. Lantz briefly reminded the group about the concept and the pilot areas being discussed. Metro will be doing initial planning and environmental work, along with some transit improvements with a pricing structure potentially in place by 2025. Ms. Bacharach added that at the Metro PAC meeting, it was mentioned that Metro intends on reinvesting the collected revenues in the areas they're collected to help improve transit service and other ancillary projects. She noted that Metro had stated the same policy for 1-110 ExpressLanes revenues, the revenues from which are still being held by Metro and not being released back to the corridor for further improvements.

Committee Member Butts asked what the South Bay's general sentiment is regarding congestion pricing. He expressed his concerns about the pricing policy on low and moderate-wage workers who must travel through these areas in personal vehicles for their work and are unable to trade their car for public transit. These individuals, including many Inglewood residents, may be unfairly burdened by this proposal. Mr. Lantz added that Metro Board Members Hahn and Solis also expressed concerns. Mr. Klipp noted that Supervisor Hahn's concern was for those people whose car is their job. Committee Member Butts asked if the SBCCOG could poll its members to gauge their opinions on the issue.

## VIII. Transit Project Metrics – Shifting from Ridership to Access

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro is considering a change to the way it evaluates project performance. Currently, it's about ridership, passenger miles, and other quantifiable metrics. There is consideration of a shift to access, and running service to places where people need to go, and allowing ridership to follow that. This would impact new routes, future route changes, etc.

## IX. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed

Ms. Bacharach announced that South Bay Fiber Network (SBFN) is nearing completion and SBFN 2.0 is beginning to be worked on. SBFN 2.0 will include applications that cities will use on the network, including those that are eligible for subregional transportation funding.

Ms. Bacharach also announced the SBCCOG has applied for a Caltrans planning grant that will implement the design of a micro-mobility hub/neighborhood center connected to the SBFN in Hawthorne, Gardena, and/or Carson.

**X. Announcements / Adjournment**

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. to April 12, 2021 at 10:30 am.