

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Transit Operators' Working Group
 May 7th, 2020
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Jason Jo (Carson); Dana Pynn (GTrans); Kim Turner, James Lee (Torrance Transit); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the March 5, 2020 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns

Ms. Pynn noted that the biggest issue at hand is the pandemic. There have been significant changes in schedules, boarding policies, and bus cleaning protocol. Additionally, Gardena has started to look at reintroducing normal work procedures, enforcing fare collection, and more. Most staff are working at home, with the exception of Department heads.

Mr. Lee echoed the issues that Gardena was facing. Ridership is approximately 55% to 60% of pre-pandemic levels. Additional safety precautions have been implemented such as safety screens.

Ms. Rooney added that Beach Cities Transit is in the same boat as the other operators, however they are about 15% of regular ridership. There is no official plan yet on re-opening, but future changes will likely be needed. Their reopening will be partially driven by the reopening of schools because several of their lines have large student ridership. BCT has reduced about 100 hours of service per month but drivers are doing additional cleaning of buses/ bus stops and other tasks, so they are still employed and not furloughed or laid off.

Mr. Lantz added That LA Metro is expecting it to take at least six months to get back to full operation and asked the municipal operators if that is what they expect as well. Mr. Lee thought that Torrance Transit would likely be back in mid to late summer as did Ms. Pynn for GTrans. She noted that there will also likely be "rightsizing" the service so it will likely not ever be the same as it was before.

Mr. Jo shared that Carson staff had proposed a modified schedule for their buses, but the proposal was rejected and the City leadership decided to suspend service until further notice. Re-opening largely depends on the Mayor and City Manager. Some service will be replaced with a pilot project with Lyft for subsidized rides.

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

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Budget Request will likely be handled in June, along with the Transfer policy. Ms. Turner asked if there should be testimony in support of the Transfer policy. Mr. Lantz said that it would be a great idea and that he will work with Mike Bohlke to determine how to best receive public comment. Metro is currently meeting via teleconference, so in-person public comments are not currently feasible.

4) COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts & CARES Act

This was discussed under Transit Operators Issues and Concerns.

5) NextGen Study Status Update

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro is considering ways to implement NextGen changes during the pandemic. There has been no new communication between Metro and the municipal operators regarding line changes in the South Bay.

6) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update

Ms. Pynn noted that GTrans is still in discussion to provide service, but with the potential upheaval of the NFL schedule due to the pandemic, there will likely be no immediate service provided, particularly if fans are not allowed in the stadium. Ms. Turner added that Torrance Transit is moving forward with its "Torrance to Florence" route which will be a regular service provided by the agency.

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

Mr. Jo announced that Carson is conducting a route analysis and will continue to work with other municipal operators as Fehr and Peers continues their work on the analysis.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. to June 4th, 2020.