

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Transit Operators' Working Group

May 6, 2021
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney & Diane Amaya (Beach Cities Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); James Lee (Torrance Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Cuong Trinh (Caltrans); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

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

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:01 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. Rooney shared that Beach Cities Transit has started running school trippers again now that there are some students returning to classrooms. BCT continues to not enforce fare collection and likely will not until 2023.

Ms. Pynn shared GTrans is considering fare enforcement in mid-June or at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Mr. Lee noted that most COVID-related changes remain in place at Torrance Transit. They are also working with Metro to figure out the acquisition of Metro Line 130.

3) Caltrans Active Transportation Plan presentation

Mr. Trinh provided a brief presentation on Caltrans' Active Transportation Plans. The 2017 State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan instructed Caltrans to develop district-level plans to identify bicycle and pedestrian needs and priority projects on or parallel to and across the state highway system. District 7 is currently looking for input from public agencies and the general public on specific needs and deficiencies. Mr. Trinh demonstrated the catplan.org website and the interactive map that allows a user to place a pin on a map to identify location-based needs. For more information, the presentation is available online here:

https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transit_operators/meeting/PRESENTATION_2021-05-06%20-%20South%20Bay%20Cities%20COG%20Transit%20Operators%20Working%20Group%20-%20CAT%20Plans%20intro.pdf

4) Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

- Recovery Task Force Recommendations

Mr. Lantz shared that Metro service levels will be returning to normal between September and December 2021. Fare enforcement may begin again soon.

- Metro Fareless System Initiative

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro Board staff are crafting a motion that would limit the pilot to K-14 students, but it is unclear if that would be for all students or just low-income students. However, some Board staff are pushing for a more robust program while others are asking staff to identify sustainable funding sources before going into full effect so that other funding sources aren't targeted down the road.

- Metro Fare Capping Strategy

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board approved a capping strategy last month, but the implementation date is still to be determined since it will take approximately nine months to develop TAP software.

- Metro Traffic Reduction Study/ Congestion Pricing Pilot

Mr. Lantz shared that the implementation is scheduled for 2025, but that the environmental process must take place first. He added that there may be changes to this program with the new CEO.

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

Mr. Lantz noted there is not much to update at this time. The Airport Connector project is about to break ground and 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.

- Crenshaw North Extension Scoping Period

Mr. Lantz announced that the scoping period is opening for the Crenshaw North Extension project that would extend the line north to Hollywood. Metro is working on the EIR now so that should funding become available, the project could be strategically positioned for acceleration.

- **Chief of Staff Succession**

Mr. Lantz shared that Nadine Lee left Metro. It is unclear at this time if the new CEO will opt for the Chief of Staff organization that Phil Washington preferred, or transition to Deputy CEOs.

5) **May 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**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. to July 7, 2021 at 3 p.m.