

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee
November 14, 2019
Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:30 A.M.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach)	James Butts (Inglewood)
Drew Boyles (El Segundo)	James Gazeley (Lomita)
Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)	Hildy Stern (Manhattan Beach)
Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)	Milton Herring (Torrance)

In attendance were the following non-voting elected officials:

Pat Furey (Torrance)

Non-Voting Representatives

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)	Don Szerlip (Metro South Bay Service Council)
Joyce Rooney, Transit Operators (Beach Cities Transit)	Michael Ervin (Sup. Hahn's Office)

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Jason Jo (Carson)	Mark Dierking (Metro)
Coby King (El Segundo)	Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)
Scott Mitnick (El Segundo)	Sarah Horn (Caltrans)
Ken Berkman (El Segundo)	Daniel Kopulsky (Caltrans)
Louis Atwell (Inglewood)	Rafael Molina (Caltrans)
Lisa Trifiletti (Inglewood)	Olina Wibroe (Sen. Allen's Office)
Tunisia Johnson (Inglewood)	Tami Podesta (HNTB)
Omar Pulido (Inglewood)	William Gorham (Plenary Group)
Elias Sassoon (Rancho Palos Verdes)	Julie Ann Anopol (Willdan Fin. Services)
Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit)	David Leger (SBCCOG)
Ernie Crespo (GTrans)	Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)
Godfrey Offoegbu (Torrance Transit)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Mike Bohlke (Metro BOD)	

II. Consent Calendar

A. August 12, 2019 Transportation Committee Minutes

B. October 2019 Transportation Update

MOTION by Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Member Boyles, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. No objection. So ordered.

III. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group Update

Mr. Semaan reported that the IWG met yesterday and discussed the potential transfer of funds from the Measure R South Bay Highway Program. The working group also heard presentations from Caltrans on the I-405 work being done as well as the Sepulveda / Pacific Coast Highway resurfacing project scheduled for FY 2021/22.

B. Transit Operators Working Group Update

Ms. Rooney reported that at the last TOWG meeting, the group discussed the potential Measure R SBHP transfer and potential project applications they were considering submitting.

C. Metro Service Council – Don Szerlip

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council will be meeting at the Lennox Library beginning in January, not the Carson Community Center as previously reported. Mr. Szerlip also brought the committee's attention to a time-sensitive issue being handled by Metro's Planning Committee regarding inclusion of Green Line improvements in the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) for 2020. Mr. Szerlip passed out copies of a letter submitted by the South Bay Service Council to Metro urging the inclusion of improvements such as station platform extensions, traction power upgrades, and grade separation of one of the rain lines at the Wye intersection with the Crenshaw/LAX line. Mr. Szerlip suggested the committee consider submitting a similar letter. The Service Council's letter is available here:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_SBSC%20GL%20RTIP%20Letter.pdf

Chair Horvath asked if the RTIP coincided with the Green Line mid-life re-build. Mr. Szerlip explained that the RTIP is done annually and covers approximately 5 years of vision, compared to the Long-Range Transportation Plan that covers about 20 years. So the RTIP does not necessarily correlate to the mid-life updates of rail lines.

MOTION by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Herring, to submit a letter to Metro urging the inclusion of the Green Line upgrades in the RTIP.

IV. Annual Performance Evaluation Report – Received and Filed

Mr. Lantz gave an overview of the report, explaining that it tracks progress against an annual set of milestone goals established by city staff in July of each year. This tool is used to monitor project delivery and can help track potential delay-causing issues. The report is available online here:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_October%202019%20APE%20report.pdf

MOTION by Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **RECEIVE and FILE** the Annual Performance Evaluation Report. No objection. So ordered.

V. Evaluation of Applications Submitted for Measure M & R Call for Projects

Updated Exhibits were handed out and are available here:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_REVISED%20Attachment%20D%2C%20Exhibit%201%20-%20Measure%20R%20Revenue%20vs.%20application%20summary%20v2.pdf; and http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_%20REVISED_Attachment%20D%20Exhibit%202%20-%202010.31.2019%20project%20applications%20for%20fund%20transfer%20considerations.pdf

Mr. Lantz began by giving an overview of the transfer option, explaining that the Measure R ordinance allows a transfer of funds between the Measure R Highway Sub-Fund and the Measure R Transit Sub-Fund once every 10 years, the first time being 2020. Mr. Lantz noted that he learned earlier this morning that sufficient SBHP contingency fund would be transferred from the highway sub-fund to the transit sub-fund to provide appropriate contingency capacity if the transfer occurs. Metro also needs to set a public hearing and provide 30-day notice to the public prior to the Board considering the transfer so the earliest action could be taken would be the January 23, 2020 Metro Board Meeting.

Mr. Lantz also noted that SBCCOG staff is recommending Board approval of a recommendation to Metro that the South Bay's entire \$130 million Measure M Sub-Regional Equity Program funding be accelerated (from its 2043 programmed year) and be used for the regionally-significant Centinela Grade separation project on the Crenshaw-LAX line.

Mr. Lantz reported that the SBCCOG received 48 project applications by the October 31 deadline, 34 of which are highway projects and the remaining 14 being transit projects. Working off Exhibit 1, Mr. Lantz explained that there is approximately \$918M available through FY29 in uncommitted Measure R SBHP and Measure M MSP projects. The Green Line South extension would require a 3% local match which could be provided by the funds, which is approximately \$40-60M based off current cost estimates for the extension. Approximately \$741M would remain in Measure R and M sub-regional programs through FY29 after those costs. The SBCCOG received

about \$1.3B in applications. The majority of the highway project applications were for freeway improvements along the I-405 (South Bay Curve project). Ms. Bacharach cautioned that the project applications have not been vetted yet and that some may not be eligible but added that substantial changes in funding needed are unlikely.

Ms. Rooney asked if there was a timeframe in which Metro is expected to act on the transfer. Mr. Lantz explained that all subregions must transfer at the same time and that the North County may be considering a transfer. The Metro Board will have to approve the transfer by a 2/3 majority.

Mr. Kopulsky shared that Caltrans looks to Measure R as a major source of funding since much of their funding is for rehab/maintenance and that operational improvement funds are often allocated using a state-wide competitive application.

Chair Horvath asked if the SBHP matching requirements would apply to the transit funding as well. Mr. Lantz explained that it is a decision for the SBCCOG Board to make but cautioned that the program might be best served by including a matching policy. Ms. Bacharach took this time to pass out the revised Exhibit B which lists the local match needed by projects should the same SBHP policies be applied. Also handed out was a list of potential funding sources that could be used to complement funds requested from the SBCCOG's programs (for both highway and transit projects). This handout is available here:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_Selected%20Transportation%20Funding%20Sources.pdf

Mr. Semaan commented that historically, there has always been excess funding available. On behalf of the IWG, he shared the group's concern that a potential allocation of significant size could jeopardize the delivery of crucial infrastructure projects over the next decade due to financial constraints. The working group is requesting the Committee take no action this month to allow for further review of applications and a refinement of the project lists.

Committee Member Butts took the opportunity to share his view on the transfer and why it is needed. He explained that during his career as a police officer, there are always going to be elected officials who have reasons why processes must be created and followed. However, if he sat back and waited for all of the processes to happen, the progress he achieved would not have been possible. This is why he feels the \$560M transfer should be made. He explained that his motion (available here: http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_2019.11.14_SBCOG_Mayor%20Butts%20Motion%20RE%20Highway%20Transfer%20%28003%29.pdf) would allow for increased flexibility in the South Bay by allowing cities to spend the funding on both highway AND transit projects. He revised his motion to note that unused transit funds should automatically revert back to highway funding.

Committee Member Boyles added that he is a co-author of the motion and supports the transfer. The benefits of what happens in Inglewood will benefit all of the South Bay and will have huge impacts on traffic everyone deals with.

Mayor Furey added that he feels important for the South Bay to take control of this funding and noted that now is the opportunity to do so. He also mentioned that Torrance, as a net contributor of hundreds of millions of dollars to the transportation sales taxes, wants to make sure the money is spent in the South Bay on transit systems that will help alleviate traffic.

Mr. Szerlip asked to confirm that should the transfer be done and there are unused funds, can those funds be used for highway projects without having to be re-transferred back to the highway program. Mr. Lantz noted that it would be dependent on the Metro Board motion. Committee Member Butts stated again that it is all about providing the South Bay the flexibility to fund both highway and transit projects.

Mr. Ervin shared that Supervisor Hahn will support the will of the cities. He also noted that the metrics by which projects were judged (level of service) when Measure R was passed has now shifted to reduction in vehicle miles travelled, so there is a big push to get people out of their cars and into transit.

After no further discussion, Chair Horvath noted the **MOTION** on the table by Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Member Boyles that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments ("COG") adopt and direct the use and adhere to the following framework to justify the transfer of Measure R Highway Funds to Transit Funds, as allowed in Section 11 of the Measure R Ordinance, as follows:

1. At the COG November 21, 2019 Board Meeting adopt this Motion to formally request that the Metro Board set for Public Hearing as prescribed in Section 11 the approval of a total transfer of \$560M from the South Bay COG Measure R Highway Capital Subfund (Line 33 in the Measure R Expenditure Plan) to the Measure R Transit Capital Subfund for January 23, 2020.
2. In collaboration with the Metro Chief Planning Officer, finalize a list of transit projects from South Bay project sponsors through a robust and transparent vetting process to be completed by January 2020. The selection of the projects should advance transportation sustainability goals (e.g. transit, transit-related infrastructure and clean bus technology) and the reduction of greenhouse gases and VMT.
3. In preparation for the January 23, 2020 Public Hearing, issue a report to the Metro Chief Executive Officer that includes the following:
 - A. A proposed list of South Bay Transit Capital Projects and Project Sponsors that the Metro Board would consider approving by a majority vote as part of the South Bay COG's normally scheduled Budget Request process.
 1. The COG should consider waiving Measure R local match requirements to be consistent Measure M requirements for transit-related projects.
 2. Should transit funds not be utilized, such funds would automatically revert back to the Measure R Highway Fund at any time.
 - B. Consider Measure R Highway Operational Improvement Funds and any other transit-related Metro capital funding as a match to funding transferred from the Measure R Highway Sub-Fund to the Transit Sub-Fund by the 2/3 vote of the Metro Board.
4. Provide a report back to the COG's Steering Committee once the Metro Board approved all items above at the January 23, 2020.

No objection. So ordered.

Mr. Lantz gave a brief background on the Centinela Grade separation project, explaining that when the line was first designed, the Inglewood Entertainment District was not conceived, and no consideration was given to a grade separation of the line as it crosses Centinela Ave just north of the intersection of Florence/Centinela. Current projections anticipated level F service at this intersection almost all day long due to the frequent street closures to allow the train to pass. In order to reduce this delay, rail line must be grade separated (either trenched or aerial).

Mr. Szerlip asked to confirm that the rail line would be opened first, then the tracks would be re-routed during construction of the grade separation. Committee Member Butts confirmed that that would be the process, and that federal funds would be jeopardized if the rail line didn't open on time.

Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Member Boyles, **MOVED** that South Bay Cities Council of Governments request Metro to use \$130 million in South Bay Sub-Regional Equity Program funding to the Centinela Grade Separation Project and inform the Metro Board of its decision in this matter; and further **MOVED** THAT the COG Board send a formal Request to the Metro Board requesting the Metro Board to recognize the COG's decision and commit to funding the Centinela Project and instruct the CEO and Metro staff to finalize negotiations with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments its *Subregional Equity Program* allocation in the not to exceed amount of \$130 million in order to ensure the construction of the Centinela Grade Separation construction project; and In similar fashion to the July 24, 2019 Metro Board Action regarding the Metro Gold Line Extension to Claremont, the sources of funds for the recommended action include but are not limited to eligible discretionary regional Proposition A, Proposition C, Measure R and Measure M sales tax revenues and other regional, state, or federal funds, based on availability, in accordance with the cash flow needs of the project.

No objection. So ordered.

Committee Member Boyles then raised the issue of El Segundo's Park Place project currently underway. The EIR was funded through the Measure R SBHP and the project would provide a new roadway to connect the El Segundo Employment Area to Rosecrans east of PCH which would help alleviate congestion on PCH. The City

has been receiving pushback from Metro Staff regarding the eligibility of the project and is requesting the SBCCOG officially endorse the project and agree that it meets Measure R eligibility requirements.

MOTION by Committee Member Boyles, seconded by Committee Member Butts, to have the SBCCOG Board send a letter to Metro supporting the completion of the Park Place project in El Segundo which the SBCCOG continues to support as an eligible project which meets Measure R requirements. **No objection. So ordered.**

Ms. Bacharach summarized that the following actions that will be going to the SBCCOG Board on November 21st:

- Report on the letter to Metro regarding the Green Line improvements/RTIP: must be submitted prior to the SBCCOG Board meeting, so the Committee action will be reported to the SBCCOG Board;
- Recommendation on the transfer of funds to transit;
- Recommendation on use of sub-regional equity funding on the Centinela Grade Separation project;
- Recommendation that a letter be submitted to Metro officializing the SBCCOG Board's support of El Segundo's Park Place project and its eligibility under Measure R.

VI. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed

MOTION by Committee Member Butts, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka to **RECEIVE and FILE** the three-month look ahead. No objection. So ordered.

VII. Announcements / Adjournment

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. to December 9, 2019.