

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transit Operators' Working Group

November 19, 2019

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney, Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Kim Turner, Godfrey Offoegbu, James Lee (Torrance Transit); Ernie Crespo & Dana Pynn (GTrans); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the October 22, 2019 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 3:12pm. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns

Ms. Rooney announced that Los Angeles World Airports asked Beach Cities Transit to facilitate service into LAX during the holidays. Logistical discussions continue on the request.

3) Evaluation of Applications Submitted for Measure M & R Call for Projects

Mr. Lantz reported that the SBCCOG's Transportation Committee voted to recommend that up to \$560M be made available from the Measure R South Bay highway sub-fund to fund highway or transit capital projects in the South Bay. Mayor Butts introduced the motion which was unanimously approved by the Committee. The item will now go to the SBCCOG Board for final approval and recommendation to the Metro Board.

Mr. Lantz handed out the summary of project applications (available here:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transit_operators/meeting/HANDOUT_Transfer%20Request%20Summary%2011.19.19%20v2.pdf) and explained that the next step (assuming SBCCOG Board approval of the transfer) is to discuss the selection and/or prioritization of eligible projects. Mr. Lantz noted that there are concerns that some projects, such as bus replacement projects, could be considered a "maintenance" project which is not eligible under current South Bay Highway Program (SBHP) policies. Ms. Rooney explained that bus replacement is not the same as maintenance and that she would recommend replacement be eligible. It was also noted that although other funding sources exist, small operators do not fare well in bus replacement grants as 75% of the funding goes to large agencies like Metro. Funding may be awarded for partial bus replacement but would likely not fully fund even one whole bus each year, let alone replacement of multiple buses that serve a route.

Mr. Lantz also added that there must be a discussion on a matching policy. There is a current SBHP match policy that could be used; however, Mayor Butts' motion urged the SBCCOG Board to consider eliminating the match policy to be consistent with the current Measure M policy (no match required). Mr. Lantz cautioned that this will be considered but may not be enacted as it could further reduce the number of projects able to be funded. The Transit Operators were largely supportive of no match requirement but understood that it could limit the number of projects.

The Transit Operators discussed the need for reasonable selection criteria and proposed drafting transit project eligibility and selection criteria based on existing criteria already in use by other agencies/funding sources. The group will provide the proposed criteria by December 12th.

4) NextGen Study Status

No discussion on this item.

5) "Micro by Metro" Microtransit Pilot Project

Torrance Transit expressed their opposition to the idea. No further discussion on the topic occurred.

6) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update

Meetings continue between South Bay Transit Operators and Inglewood staff to discuss potential service opportunities. GTrans appears to be the only South Bay service provider currently planning on partnering for game day service at this time.

7) Metro Transit to Parks Initiative

Ms. Rooney noted that this initiative was started by Metro during the summer and is a study on using transit to bring more residents to local parks.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. to January 9th, 2020.