

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee  
November 9, 2020  
Meeting Minutes  
(Held virtually via Zoom)

**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)  
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)

Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)  
George Chen (Torrance)

**Non-Voting Representatives**

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)  
James Lee, TOWG (Beach Cities Transit)

Don Szerlip, Metro South Bay Service Council

**Also in attendance were the following persons:**

Jason Jo (Carson)  
Kevin Kwak (Gardena)  
Reed Salan (Hermosa Beach)  
Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes)  
Craig Bilezerian (Torrance)  
Steve Finton (Torrance)  
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)  
Art Reyes (Torrance)  
Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit)  
Gregory Farr (Caltrans)  
Robert So (Caltrans)

Sarah Horn (Caltrans)  
Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)  
Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)  
Mark Dierking (Metro)  
Isidro Panuco (Metro)  
Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)  
Tami Podesta (HNTB)  
Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)  
Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)  
David Leger (SBCCOG)

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

**III. Consent Calendar**

- A. September 14, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED**
- B. October 12, 2020 Transportation Committee Meeting Notes – RECEIVED AND FILED**
- C. November 2020 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED**

**MOTION** by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member Pimentel, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Approved without objection.

**IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates**

**A. Infrastructure Working Group Update**

Mr. Semaan reported that the IWG met in October and heard presentations on the Caltrans Ambassadors Program as well as an update on the Metropolitan Water District's Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center. It was also reported that Caltrans District 7 Director John Bulinski is retiring.

**B. Transit Operators Working Group Update**

Mr. Lee reported that the TOWG met in October and continued discussing impacts of COVID-19 on Transit, including the agency efforts to accommodate social distancing, barriers, and schedule modifications. Additionally, the Torrance Transit Center Park & Ride facility has re-started construction and is expected to be completed by August 2021.

**C. Metro Service Council**

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting.

**V. Measure R SBHP / Measure M MSP Updates**

**a. Measure M MSP Cashflow Update discussion and City Meetings**

Mr. Lantz explained that SBCCOG staff is reviewing Metro’s new MSP funding allocations and overall MSP funding availability. SBCCOG and Metro staff will begin working with lead agency staff to discuss project statuses, potential project funding shortfalls, and new project requests. Due to the current financial constraints of the Measure R SBHP and Measure M MSPs, priority will be given to projects in or entering the construction phase. Following that, priority will be given to projects in design and environmental phases. Third priority will be given to new project requests.

**b. City of Torrance Request for Additional Funds - APPROVED**

Mr. Lantz explained that this item is being brought back from last month’s agenda due to a lack of quorum in October. The City is requesting additional funding due to a shortfall for the Transit Center Park & Ride project and an accompanying roadway improvement project. Due to the cashflow needs of the City, the action is being recommended out of cycle from the normal Metro Budget Request process. Metro requires SBCCOG Board action prior to programming any new funds for this project.

Committee Member Pimentel asked if there was any risk in Metro not identifying funds for the request. Ms. Bacharach explained that this would come from the South Bay’s subregional funds and would only reduce the amount of funding available for other South Bay projects.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Chen, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **APPROVE** the City of Torrance’s request for additional funds. Approved without objection.

**VI. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives**

Mr. Lantz shared that Metro is still studying its pandemic recovery strategy. Green Line Extension scoping meetings are being scheduled for early 2021.

A question was asked about Metro’s Free Fare program. Mr. Dierking explained that Metro staff is still studying the concept and is reaching out to municipal operators and other impacted parties. Mr. Lantz added that the Metro Board is somewhat concerned about a unilateral free fare policy and may be more supportive of categorical approach (such as low income riders, seniors, students, etc.). The Board is also considering a fare capping strategy if a free fare is not adopted systemwide. This strategy would allow a rider to pay daily until the cost of a period pass (day, week, 30-day) was reached then ride for free for the balance of that pass period.

**VII. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and Filed**

**VIII. Announcements / Adjournment**

Ms. Bacharach announced that the South Bay Fiber Network connection celebration is taking place November 17<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Instructions on how to register are on the SBCCOG website.

Mr. Farr announced that the new Caltrans District 7 Director will be Tony Tavares, coming from Caltrans District 4. He will begin his new role at the beginning of December.

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m. to December 14, 2020.