

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Transit Operators' Working Group
 October 1, 2020
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the September 3, 2020 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns Including COVID-19 Impacts

Mr. Lantz opened up discussion for the agencies to share pandemic and general issues and concerns.

Ms. Pynn reported that not much has changed since the last meeting regarding COVID-19. New policies on returning to in-office work have been adopted and agency staff is almost 100% back in the office. Unrelated to COVID-19, GTrans is expecting delivery of 8 new CNG buses.

Ms. Rooney shared that Beach Cities Transit is also operating relatively similar to last month. Driver compartment barriers to facilitate front door boarding have been installed, but fare collection continues to be suspended. Until City Hall reopens, passes are unable to be sold. There have been minor glare complaints from drivers due to the barriers which are being addressed. Beach Cities Transit's Real Time portal will be launching officially on October 12th. Construction on the transit center is expected to begin in coming weeks.

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

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro has notified the Legislature and the one-year countdown has begun and will be completed in June 2021.

4) Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

Mr. Lantz provided the following updates:

- FY20-21 Budget: Metro recently approved a \$6B transit operating budget.
- NextGen Bus Study: The Metro Board will be considering approval of the NextGen route recommendations that would be implemented in December 2020, June 2021, and December 2021.
- Free Fare Proposal: Metro staff will be bringing back to the Metro Board a proposal on how to implement a free fare policy. Metro Board staff shared that a universal free fare proposal may not be widely supported, but free fares for subsets of riders, such as students, elderly, or low-income riders, could be more appealing. Mr. Lantz added that there is a lot of development and coordination that must take place before implementation because it will impact municipal operators, ASI, Metrolink, and others partnering with Metro on transfers. Staff will be evaluating impacts on other agencies, Metro's budget, and more.
- Traffic Reduction Study: Metro staff is considering congestion pricing as a strategy to promote other modes of transportation besides single-occupancy vehicles.
- BRT Visions & Principles Study: no discussion on this item.
- Long-Range & Short-Range Transportation Plans: Metro recently approved the 30-year Long-Range Transportation Plan which is the financially unconstrained program of projects and strategies that Metro thinks they might want to pursue in the next three decades. Metro will next prepare a Short-Range Transportation Plan that is a financially constrained compilation of programs and projects that can be implemented over the next decade.

5) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update: No updates were given.

6) October 2020 Transportation Report: Item was distributed separately.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. to November 12, 2020 at 3 p.m.