

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee  
September 14, 2020  
Meeting Minutes  
(Held virtually via Zoom)

**COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:33 A.M.**

**I. Welcome / Self-Introductions**

**In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:**

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach)	Stacey Armato (Hermosa Beach)
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)	Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)

**Non-Voting Representatives**

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)	Don Szerlip, Metro South Bay Service Council
Leslie Scott, TOWG (Beach Cities Transit)	

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

Jason Jo (Carson)	Anthony Soto (Caltrans)
Kevin Kwak (Gardena)	Pamela Manning (LA County DPW)
Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach)	Mark Dierking (Metro)
Nasser Razepoor (Rancho Palos Verdes)	Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)
Craig Bilezerian (Torrance)	Tami Podesta (HNTB)
Steve Finton (Torrance)	Jeffrey Fromhertz (WSP)
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)	Jim Hannon (SB Bicycle Coalition)
John Bulinski (Caltrans)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Gloria Roberts (Caltrans)	Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)
Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)	David Leger (SBCCOG)

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

**III. Consent Calendar**

**A. June 8, 2020 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED**

**B. September 2020 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED**

**MOTION** by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Chair Horvath, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. No objections. So ordered.

**IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates**

**A. Infrastructure Working Group Update**

Mr. Semaan reported that the IWG met September 9<sup>th</sup>. The working group heard a presentation from Metro staff on its Traffic Reduction/Congestion Pricing study.

**B. Transit Operators Working Group Update**

Ms. Scott reported that the TOWG has been meeting regularly and has discussed reduced operating schedules, social distancing, transit service to the Inglewood Entertainment District, and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**C. Metro Service Council**

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council heard a presentation by Inglewood’s consultant on the Inglewood Transit Connector project. There was also an update presentation on the NextGen study. There was a public hearing on the proposed NextGen changes in August which provided significant feedback, particularly on the changes in San Pedro. The regular Service Council meeting was postponed to September 18<sup>th</sup> so staff could complete their work on the public hearing comments/responses.

**V. Caltrans District 7 Ambassador Program**

Caltrans District 7 Director John Bulinski and Deputy Director Gloria Roberts presented on Caltrans' new Ambassador Program which aims to foster communication and strengthen partnerships with local communities. Deputy Directors from District 7 have been assigned various geographical areas to serve as liaisons and help Caltrans better understand and meet the needs of local cities. Director Bulinski also touched on Caltrans' efforts to address equity via the Division of Planning Transportation Equity Branch; maintenance services; collaborative efforts on homelessness; and the Small Business Outreach Program. For more detail, the presentation is available online here:

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation\\_committee/PRESENTATION\\_Caltrans%20Ambassador%20Program.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/PRESENTATION_Caltrans%20Ambassador%20Program.pdf)

**VI. FY19-20 Year-End Annual Performance Evaluation Report / August 2020 Monthly Progress Report**

Mr. Leger announced that a quarterly update of the Annual Performance Evaluation was posted to the SBCCOG website. There will be a final report distributed at the next meeting which will cover progress throughout FY 19-20. The two reports are available online here:

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation\\_committee/HANDOUT\\_Attachment%20C-1\\_SBHP%20APE%20Report%20FY%2019-20.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_Attachment%20C-1_SBHP%20APE%20Report%20FY%2019-20.pdf)

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation\\_committee/HANDOUT\\_Attachment%20C-2\\_SBHP%20Project%20Updates%20August%202020.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/HANDOUT_Attachment%20C-2_SBHP%20Project%20Updates%20August%202020.pdf)

**VII. Crenshaw / LAX Cost Overrun Update**

Mr. Lantz provided a brief background on the issues facing the project and the \$90M cost overrun it currently faces. He reminded the Committee that the SBCCOG Board of Directors had previously committed the South Bay's Measure M Subregional Equity Program funding to this overrun, conditioned on the City of LA's commitment to fund their proportional share. The City of LA is still looking at potential funding options.

**VIII. Metro Recovery Plan / NextGen Transit Study Update**

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro is looking to make improvements to its bus system to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the service. The NextGen plan recommendations will soon be approved by the Metro Board and will begin being implemented as part of the COVID-19 recovery plan. In response to the pandemic, Metro reduced service to approximately 4M service hours and forecasts slow increases over the next two years when they will return to pre-pandemic service levels. Social distancing recommendations significantly reduce capacity of the buses which will lead to a shortage of equipment and drivers as ridership returns. Mr. Szerlip added that the original plan was to implement NextGen recommendations over an 18-month period, however it will likely be 2-3 years due to pandemic-related issues.

**IX. Metro Measure R Transfer Policy Update**

Mr. Lantz provided a brief update on the county-wide decennial Measure R Transfer Policy and the SBHP Transfer Program. The Metro Board has provided the required notice to the State Legislature and must now wait 1 year until the formal amendment of the ordinance is possible, likely in July 2021.

**X. Metro Traffic Reduction / Congestion Pricing Study Update**

Mr. Lantz explained that this study began as the Congestion Pricing Study but was recently renamed the Traffic Reduction Study. Mr. Lantz elaborated that Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation is looking at three potential congestion pricing options to implement in a study area to determine if congestion pricing is a feasible approach to converting drivers to transit riders and telecommuters. Metro is evaluating charging drivers a "cordon" fee to drive within a certain geographic area, along a designated corridor, or a countywide fee on total vehicle miles travelled. Mr. Lantz cautioned that successful congestion pricing programs require alternative transportation opportunities to be in place prior to the program starting. The process is only beginning and won't be completed until 2024/25. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

**XI. Three Month Look-Ahead**

**XII. Announcements / Adjournment**

Mr. Szerlip announced that Metro is planning scoping meetings with S. B. agencies for the Green Line Torrance Extension in the Fall. Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m. to October 12, 2020.