

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transit Operators' Working Group

September 17th, 2019

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney (Beach Cities Transit); James Lee (Torrance Transit); Ernie Crespo & Dana Pynn (GTrans); John Zeigler (LA County); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the July 17, 2019 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p. m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns

Mr. Crespo reported that Metro presented on the Vermont Corridor BRT study from 120th Street now to PCH. There are two concepts being studied right now, curbside in the northern segment from Hollywood to the South Bay and center lane in the South Bay segment Mr. Crespo noted this would be a good presentation for Metro to make to the SBCCOG's Transportation Committee.

The Transit Operators also expressed concern over Metro's NextGen Bus Study. Their concerns lie largely around the lack of transparency on what is being said by Metro staff at one meeting with a municipal operator compared to the next. Mr. Lantz noted that Metro staff is trying to get an update to the Metro Board in December. The first phase of proposed changes will not take place until January 2021 at the earliest.

3) Opportunities for Sub-Regional Funding of Transit Capital Projects

Mr. Lantz reviewed the possibility of a transfer of funds from the Measure R South Bay highway sub-fund to a transit sub-fund in order to fund transit capital projects in the South Bay. Currently there are no sub-regional transit funding sources available in the South Bay except for the Sub-Regional Equity Funds, which can be used on highway or transit capital projects. This opportunity is afforded by the once-a-decade provision in the Measure R Ordinance that allows the Metro Board of Directors to transfer funds from one sub-fund to another. In order to identify the magnitude of a potential transfer, SBCCOG staff has requested potential projects from both transit agencies and city public works departments as well as Metro and Caltrans. Mr. Lantz explained that this funding could be used for large transit projects such as the Centinela Grade Separation (Expo Line) as well as the local match requirement as part of the Green Line extension to Torrance. Transit Operators shared some of their initial project ideas such as bus acquisition for EV compliance and/or expanded service, improved bus stop amenities and next-bus technologies, and EV bus charging infrastructure. The agencies will further develop their ideas and will submit any applications to the SBCCOG by October 31.

4) Metro Budget Request Transit Capital Project Description Template

Mr. Lantz explained that this template should be used to submit projects for the potential sub-fund transfer.

5) Inglewood Special Event Service Coordination Update

GTrans has continued meeting with Inglewood and is considering providing a premium seasonal service at the Southwest College parking site, which is one of nine remote parking lots being used for game day parking. GTrans may be requesting subsidy from the City, but that discussions are not yet at that level of detail.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m. to October 22nd, 2019.