

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group May 15, 2013 – Meeting Notes

ATTACHMENT A

Attendees: Rob Beste (Torrance); Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); Frank Bigdeli (Gardena); Akbar Farokhi & Alan Leung (Hawthorne); Albert Mendoza (Inglewood); Nasser Abbaszadeh (Lawndale); John Mate (Redondo Beach); Craig Bilezerian & Ted Semaan (Torrance); Will Lamborn & Isidro Panuco (Metro); Russ Bryden, Andres Narvaez & Dominic Osmena (LA County DWP); Jacki Bacharach, Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Tod Short (Base Architecture); Elliot Hubbard (Delcan Corporation); Richard Shackleton (Dynalectric Transportation); Mel Barosay (Epic Land Solutions); Fong-Ping Lee (FPL & Associates); Richard Galvan (GPA Consulting); Alan Clelland, Jim Curry & Alek Hovsepian (Iteris, Inc.); James Hoyt & Frank Lara (Jacobs Engineering); Miranda Patton (MNS Engineers, Inc); Tracy Bartlett (Nichols Consulting Engineers); Claudette Moody (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

Chair Beste called the IWG meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of April 17, 2013 Minutes-** (Attachment A) – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **Agencies & Other Reports:**

- **SBCCOG** – Jacki Bacharach reported that the SBCCOG was awarded \$771,630 from Southern California Edison to accelerate and enhance climate action planning work that is being done on behalf of the cities of the South Bay. Staff will be using these funds to work with SBCCOG members in developing more technically rigorous Climate Action Plans. Energy efficiency specifically will receive special attention and expert analysis. These funds will not support climate action planning work for transportation, solid waste, and water use strategies, which account for over 50% of the greenhouse gas emissions in most of the South Bay cities. That portion will be made up by the continuation of a special assessment that SBCCOG members are paying to ensure that the South Bay cities' Climate Action Plans be comprehensive in addressing these critical issues. Ms. Bacharach also said that there is another grant opportunity regarding a water energy nexus based on leak detection that the SBCCOG is actively seeking. Topics for the SBCCOG's 15th Annual General Assembly to be held in February 2014 were also listed.
- **SOUTH BAY TRAFFIC FORUM, LA County Dept. of PW** – Status – Andres Narvaez distributed the South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report, which included these highlights: The County began distributing mylars to cities for signatures for the South Bay Fiber Interconnect along Artesia Blvd., Vermont Ave, Manchester Ave, Western Ave, and Manhattan Beach Blvd. Signatures are needed as soon as possible. Blue commute was also promoted. Steve Lantz advocated for it, as a Blue Commute user. Alan Clelland congratulated the County for the award it was given for innovation and transportation (ITS efforts on the Wireless Communication System.) Regarding the County's TSSP Projects, Mr. Narvaez reported that: Marine Ave from Sepulveda Bl to Vermont Ave and 223rd St between Western Ave/Delta Ave have remaining punch list items, and Vermont between the I-105/PCH is almost complete. Aviation Bl between 118th St/Ocean Dr and Crenshaw Bl between the I-105/Crestridge Rd are still under design. The County is requesting another extension and asks for letters from cities to support this.
- **Caltrans** – Update – Not present.
- **Metro – PMIS Update, Board Update, Measure R Acceleration, SCA 4 (55% vote initiative)** – Will Lamborn reported that Metro is still working to improve the PSRA, as there are remaining technical difficulties. In the interim, lead agencies may still have to submit their monthly reports manually. Steve Lantz mentioned Metro's proposed Measure R Acceleration Amendment (released in March 2013) and reported that the SBCCOG will be sending comments back to Metro over the next month. Jacki Bacharach encouraged cities to send letters to Metro, emphasizing that bifurcating rail and transit projects (versus choosing one over the other) is the best solution, as the Acceleration Amendment plan does not work for all sub-regions. It may do more harm than good in certain areas, including the South Bay.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee** – Update – Ted Semaan reported that \$4.5 million dollars which was initially to the TAC by the Metro Board as a Call for Projects contingency fund, was reduced to only \$450,000 dollars so that funding in the Bicycle/ Active Transportation category of the Call could be increased. The TAC appeals process for previous years' CFP residuals is scheduled for July 30 and 31, with Metro staff seeking final Board adoption of the 2013 CFP in September. Regarding the update on the April 2013 Metro Streets & Freeway Subcommittee, John Mate distributed a report from Elaine Jeng. Highlights from Ms. Jeng's report include: 2013 CFP modal leads will present their preliminary recommendations in July, 2013 CFP signage requirements and guideline changes, and Robert Calix will present on the Congestion Mitigation Fee Pilot at the May Metro Board meeting. The implementation period (possible \$300 to \$1649 sub-regional per-trip-amount) will follow, if approved by the Board.
- **Southern California Edison Initiative** - Update – Chair Beste reported that streetlight rates were raised in February but were lowered (due to CASL's efforts) for 3 years. South Bay City Managers have been presented with this issue and are deciding if they want to audit to the reliability of Edison's general system in the South Bay. The City of

Carson has expressed an interest and asked if other cities are also interested in pursuing this. Jacki Bacharach received a proposal from the streetlight litigator. The cities are still in the process of making a decision.

III. **Measure R Updates** – Steve Lantz made the following reports:

- **Three-Month Look Ahead**- (Attachment B) – Highlights from this document include: the release of the SBHP RFP for Technical Consultant Bench , Metro’s approval of the FY 13-14 budget, and Metro’s Measure R Project Acceleration Proposal.
- **SBHP Annual Update Calendar**- (Attachment C) – This document has practically reached its end, with the SBCCOG Board’s approval of the Implementation Plan Update. A new calendar will be made for the next update. Lead Agencies need to execute their funding agreements with Metro for the next FY so that all projects are on track.
- **Measure R Quarterly Report**- (Attachment D) – This is the document to refer to in order to track the SBCCOG’s progress in the South Bay Highway Measure R Program. A summary of the money that has been spent over the last 3 years is listed in Exhibit B as well.

IV. **SBHP Project Progress Reporting / Gantt chart** (Attachment E) – Chair Beste encouraged lead agencies to avoid having to amend their funding agreements with Metro due to changing the scope or budget of a project. Likewise, falling behind schedule by more than 6 months and increases in expenditures were also discouraged. The Measure R Oversight Committee requests that lead agencies with approaching project milestones present to the Committee.

V. **SBCCOG Consultant Bench RFP Status Report** – (Attachment F) – Steve Lantz said that the SBCCOG expects to release the RFP on May 24. The IWG packet includes the areas of the Scope of Work. Firms that would like to be on the list that will be invited to bid and attend the pre-proposal conference on June 11 must contact Marcy Hiratzka (marcy@southbaycities.org). It has been decided that firms must bid individually, not as teams. If a particular task order requires a team of consultants, the SBCCOG will form the team from the firms that have been selected for the bench.

VI. **I-405 Planning Coordination Meeting Recap** – Chair Beste reported that the event was very successful and recognized the need for continual dialogue between the sub-regions so that projects do not conflict with each other. Cities’ highway ramp projects with Caltrans were of particular interest. The possibility of holding quarterly meetings is being considered. Nine presentations were given, showcasing transportation infrastructure projects from the Orange/LA County line to the Sepulveda Pass. Presentations given at the event may be requested by contacting Marcy Hiratzka (marcy@southbaycities.org).

VII. **Strategic Transportation Element Cost Update** – Alan Clelland reported that the STE now has its own section (Part C) of the SBHP Implementation Plan. The SBCCOG is acting on the recommendations already. There will be a presentation to Metro Board in June.

VIII. **Regional Water Quality Funding Measure Update** - Russ Bryden from the LA County Flood Control District gave a brief update on the County’s Water Quality Funding Initiative, also known as the “Clean Beaches Measure.” With the goal of protecting public health and increasing drinking water supplies by cleaning up rivers, lakes, bays, beaches, and coastal waters, this measure proposes a fee that would generate over \$200 million annually in dedicated funding for reducing pollution from storm water and urban runoff in Los Angeles County waterways. The proposed fee would be paid by property owners within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, which includes most of the County. All properties generate runoff, and the more impervious surfaces that a parcel has (such as buildings and pavement), the more runoff it generates. The fee is determined by the average amount of runoff that properties generate, based on parcel size (but not property value) and land use classification, such as whether the property is residential, commercial, industrial or undeveloped, because this is an indication of the percentage of the parcel that has impermeable surfaces. Fee revenues collected within a watershed will be used for water quality projects and programs within that watershed. The measure does not earmark funds for specific projects and programs, but establishes criteria for the use of the funds and allows local jurisdictions to determine how best to use those funds to achieve water quality benefits. Over time, the projects that the fee pays for will significantly reduce the degradation of waterways in Los Angeles County and improve the quality of the water in those waterways. On January 15, 2013, the Board of Supervisors opened a public hearing to listen to public testimony regarding the proposed measure. Due to significant community and agency concerns at the hearing, the Board directed to keep the protest period open for an additional 60 days. On March 12, 2013 the Board again listened to public testimony. At the conclusion of public testimony the Board of Supervisors voted to halt work on the Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure, and then directed Public Works to continue working towards consensus with stakeholders on key elements of the proposed measure and report back on selected items in 90 days. The Board is requesting additional information on what it would take to put this issue on a ballot. Steve Lantz asked how MS4 (Municipal Separate Sanitary Storm Sewer permit for Los Angeles County) relates to this issue. Mr. Bryden said that the

County's funding initiative is independent of the MS4 Permit. The County's Flood Control District believes that a regional funding solution would be better than addressing this issue in each individual city. Chair Beste added that the first step is to identify which areas need to be treated and what programs are needed to implement the treatment. The second step is to devise ways to fund the implementations. It cannot be the other way around. The SBCCOG has invited the Regional Water Quality Control Board to lead a class for elected officials and city staff on MS-4 Permitting Guidelines on May 30, and flyers were available at the meeting. Subsequent to this meeting, this class was rescheduled for July 25 at 6pm, as an item on the SBCCOG Board meeting agenda.

- IX. **Other Business** – Alan Clelland congratulated the City of Torrance on its completion of the intersection improvements made on Maple Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard. Chair Beste added that the City is willing to give its approved signage for local Measure R projects to the next city that plans to break ground on a project.
- X. **Adjournment** — There being no further business, Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 12:44pm until June 19, 2013. *If you want to include an item in the agenda, please send an email to: Marcy@southbaycities.org by June 10, 2013.*