

Metro South Bay Service Council Monthly Meeting Review for June 11, 2021
Overview Compiled by Donald Szerlip, Chairman

A Safety Tip was given by Service Council Representative David Mach. Minutes were approved for the May 14, 2021 meeting.

Recognition of departing member Charles Deemer was given for his years of service on the Council. Christian Horvath, Chair of the SBCCOG Transportation Committee, presented Charles with a Certificate of Appreciation and Council members individually gave their accolades.

An update on the implementation of Next Bus was given by Joe Forgiarini, Senior Director, centered around the \$15 Million of capital expenditures being made to improve service, speed and reliability of the system. An overview was given of all the projects that are being phased in during FY 21 & FY 22. Extensive discussion centered around Bus Priority Lanes and Bus Stop Bulb Outs where, only on streets with three traffic lanes in each direction, the sidewalk is being built out at the bus stop so the curb is adjacent to the second traffic lane and the bus does not have to leave its travel lane in order to pick up or discharge passengers.

Cassie Halls, Senior Transportation Planner, relayed the components of the Better Bus Initiative whose ambitious goals are to create an improved experience for all Metro Bus passengers. Pilot programs include on-board, midday bus interior cleaning, a Digital Rider Alert System to include emergency messages and delay advisories and the purchase of equipment for enhanced pressure washing at bus stops. This program also includes funding for bus priority lanes, signal preemption and bulb-outs as mentioned in the prior Next Bus presentation. Additional areas being addressed are the homeless population surrounding bus stops and the lack of shade, shelter and seating at many Metro bus stops.

Next up was an in-depth System Security & Law Enforcement Update on the Metro Winter 2021 Systemwide Homeless Count and how Metro is addressing the situation. Carlos Rico, Transit Security Community Liaison covered the five main study goals: 1) Establish baseline numbers in order to 2) Inform the near-term resource planning and outreach efforts 3) Improve coordination with law enforcement and homeless outreach services 4) Identify technology requirements to develop automated solutions and 5) Develop lessons learned to improve future counts. Counts were taken on both rail and bus. A strategy of offloading at the terminus of all rail lines has already been implemented. Interaction with support groups including PATH, LA Door, The Dream Center and the Unified Homelessness Response Center are being enhanced as is coordination with the LAPD HOPE Team and the LASD MET Team.

Due to time limitations, the Regional Updates were postponed until the next meeting.

The annual election of officers for the Service Council were held. Both Chairman Donald Szerlip and Vice-Chair Ernie Crespo were unanimously reelected.

The meeting concluded following Council Member Comments and Public Comments on non-agenda items.

Respectfully submitted June 17, 2021