

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group March 28, 2012 – Meeting Notes

Attendees: Rob Beste, Chair (Torrance); Massoud Ghiam (Carson); Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); John Felix (Gardena); Frank Senteno & Homayoun Benboodi (Hermosa Beach); Keith Lockard & Chad Sweet (Inglewood); Jim Goodhart (Palos Verdes Estates); John Mate (Redondo Beach); Greg Grammer (Rolling Hills Estates); Craig Bilezerian & Ted Semaan (Torrance); Paul Choy & Jane White (LA County DWP); Fulgene Asuncion, Tasha Higgins, & Cris Liban (Metro); Mike Bohlke (Representing Metro Director, Pam O'Connor); Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Sarah Curran & John Ziegler (Breen Engineering); Mel Barosay (Epic Land Solutions); Richard Mahoney (Group Delta Consultants); Alan Clelland & Alek Hovsepian (Iteris, Inc.); Ken Berkman & Anissa Voyiatzes (Psomas); Gary Miller & Carlos Ortiz (RBF Consulting); Ryan Snyder (Ryan Snyder Associates); Marcella Low (Southern California Gas Company); Chris Phillips (TRC Solutions); Sean Guthrie, Eileen Kadowaki, & Katie McClure (Vitality City)

Chair Beste called IWG meeting to order at 12:00pm.

- I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were approved as presented.
- II. **SBCCOG Representation on Metro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – Steve Huang was not present to give an update. The appointment of Rob Beste as Metro TAC delegate and Ted Semaan as alternate for the next four years will be recommended to the SBCCOG Steering Committee. Chair Beste explained that coordination is easier if the TAC delegate and alternate are within the same agency/organization.
- III. **Green Construction Update** – Cris Liban, of Metro, provided a green construction update. He reported that a technical working group was recently formed of Metro and other agency representatives, including Rob Beste, and has already met twice, with quarterly meetings being planned. The Metro Board receives regular sustainable committee updates and updates from CARB, AQMD and Metro. The technical working group hosted an implementation planning session with AQMD and CARB. Mr. Liban discussed the current CARB regulation that requires construction vehicles to be registered with CARB and the posting of registration stickers on equipment. He noted CARB currently estimates a 60-70% compliance rate. Mr. Liban distributed the CARB/SCAQMD Key Compliance Dates and Requirements list for Off-Road, On-Road, and Generators Construction Equipment.
- IV. **PUC Regulations on Street Lighting Update**

Chair Beste reported that he has received several inquiries about joining the coalition from various cities. He said that the PUC and the coalition are still in negotiations in the context of an Edison five-year rate hearing before the PUC. The coalition is still looking for additional member cities. The rate hearing settlement discussions are confidential, but if anyone would like information on how to get involved, please speak directly with Chair Beste.
- V. **Measure R Updates**
 - a. **Project Cost adjustments / New project request memo**

Steve Lantz referenced the memo in the agenda packet and explained that the SBCCOG and Iteris need to know the status of Measure R projects being implemented by cities in terms of anticipated schedule or funding changes for current projects in the Measure R SBHP Plan. The SBCCOG needs to know if there have been any changes in redevelopment or other local matching funding source availability. In addition, the Measure R Oversight Committee would like to know of any interest by local lead agencies in pursuing new projects in FY 17 and FY 18. The memo also asks if cities are interested in receiving more detailed project management training from an organization such as APWA. This training would be outside the Iteris administrative, risk management and best practices workshops that the SBCCOG will offer. Responses are due by April 6.
 - b. **Measure R ITS Plan – Concept of Operations Lead Agency Workshop #2** – Alan and Steve gave a summary of the first workshop, in which attendees looked at concepts of operational strategies. The second Measure R ITS Plan is tentatively scheduled for May 10, 2012 at the SBCCOG office from 8am-2pm. An official meeting notice will be released soon.
 - c. **Measure R SBHP Strategic Transportation Element to guide selection of future SBHP network projects based on operational benefits and funding leverage** – Steve Lantz noted that the SBCCOG has issued a task order to System Metrics to address the question: how are we going to assign Measure R funds to prioritize and phase improvement projects on the South Bay highway and freeway Measure R network? This evaluation process is just starting now. System Metrics hopes to have an update by May.

VI. **Measure R Project Spotlight – Torrance Transit Center** – Ted Semaan distributed draft reports on the project. This is a multi-modal transit center funded through Measure R. The project has an aggressive schedule, and the City received 13 responses to its RFP. After conceptual engineering is completed, the city expects to award a design-build contract in Summer 2012.

VII. **Agency & Other Reports**

- **SBCCOG** – Program update – Steve Lantz had nothing to report.
- **SOUTH BAY TRAFFIC FORUM, LA County Dept. of PW** – Status – Jane White distributed and discussed the LA County Department of Public Works' March 2012 update list.
- **Metro** – PMIS Update: Fulgene Asuncion and Tasha Higgins of Metro presented an update on the project-status reporting software application that Metro is developing to allow electronic submittal of monthly and Measure R and Call for Projects reports required in Metro funding agreements. Cities will electronically enter information into this database, and the SBCCOG can use this data to create custom reports for monitoring Measure R project funding and project progress. This template is 75% complete; Metro is looking to begin the pilot electronic submittal application in mid-June. Metro would like the SBCCOG to be a pilot agency to get projects into the system. Final deployment will begin in July. She reported that only 5 South Bay cities have consistently submitted their monthly progress reports and quarterly financials.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee** – Update - Steve Lantz reported that the Metro Board approved the Najarian / Dubois / O'Connor / Knabe Motion that: Measure R highway "equity" funds shall be allowed to be used as a source of local match for future *Call for Projects* applications; Measure R regional funding categories be brought into alignment with the same guidelines used with Propositions A and C as reflected in the last paragraph of this Motion; and MTA staff shall integrate this Measure R Highway sub-fund policy into the Call for Projects process, and will advise the Board in April on how this policy is integrated into the Call and on initiating the 2013 Call for Projects process." The Malibu-Las Virgenes COG and Arroyo Verdugo COG also have formal sub-funds. Gateway COG also has a program of port-related Measure R improvements that will be selected by the COG so they are included as if this program were a sub-fund. The Metro TAC has expressed concerns about the adopted motion since it was approved by the Metro board without first being reviewed by TAC and there was confusion about the potential for other COGs to qualify non-sub-fund project funding from Measure R as a local match source in the Call for Projects.
- **Caltrans** – Nothing to report.

VIII. **Modal Design Manual for Living Streets Presentation** – Transportation Planning Consultant, Ryan Snyder, gave a presentation on ways to retrofit street design to incorporate bike and pedestrian-friendliness, as well as manage storm water. He is working with organizations and agencies (such as Vitality Cities and the County Dept. of Public Health) to develop new street manuals that differ from traditional auto-centric manuals. "Active transportation" is the term the County Dept. of Public Health uses (goal is to combat obesity.) Mr. Snyder noted that cities rely on established design standards but they don't always use the appropriate ones. Cities are using state highway manuals for local street design, and this creates many obstacles for bikers and walkers. A lot of the time, cities have leeway to design according to their own locally-adopted standards. Cities can download this manual template and customize it. Baldwin park will be the first city to adopt this manual in LA County.

Steve Lantz asked how low speed local vehicles fit into this research. Mr. Snyder answered that these vehicles can use mixed flow lanes on streets with speed limits under 35 miles an hour. He also noted that speed limits faster than that diminish the street capacity and equity of user access so his firm encourages local use vehicles. Ted Semaan asked if city attorneys are involved with this type of planning. Mr. Snyder answered that there has not been city attorney involvement in his design manual development. Special legislation and changes in City General Plans may be needed to implement living streets in cities. Florida and Massachusetts have adopted a classification called "shared space" (similar to European streets) defining what the rights of the different users are.

IX. **Other Business** – Steve Lantz asked for a volunteer city or agency to provide Measure R spotlight project showcase at the May meeting.

X. Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm until April 25, 2012. If you would like to add an item to the agenda please e-mail Marcy@southbaycities.org before Mon., April 16, 2012.