

## South Bay Cities Council of Governments

### Infrastructure Working Group October 24, 2012 – Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** Rob Beste, Chair (Torrance); Farrokh Abolfathi (Carson); Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); Frank Bigdeli & John Felix (Gardena); Akbar Farokhi & Alan Leung (Hawthorne); Frank Senteno (Hermosa Beach); Louis Atwell & Keith Lockhard (Inglewood); Steve Huang, Elaine Jeng, & John Mate (Redondo Beach); Greg Grammer (Rolling Hills Estates); Craig Bilezerian & Ted Semann (Torrance); Andres Narvaez & Jane White (LA County DWP); Fulgene Asuncion (Metro); Mike Bohlke (Representing Metro Director, Pam O'Connor); Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Todd Short (Base Architecture); Jeff Heald (DKS Associates); Samia Maximous (Dames Engineering Services); Beverly Voran (Hard Hat Communications); Scott Carlson, Alan Clelland, & Alek Hovsepian (Iteris, Inc.); Danisha Lockhart-Moore, Bill Price, Eric Sloan, & Dr. Revlyn Williams (Manchester Community Technologies); Claudette Moody (Parsons Brinckerhoff); Anissa Voyiatzes (Psomas); Gary Miller (RBF Consulting)

Chair Beste called IWG meeting to order at 12:06pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **Agencies & Other Reports:**

- **SBCCOG – Program update** - Steve Lantz reported that SBCCOG staff and several Councilmembers representing various South Bay Cities were attending meetings with the California Public Utilities Commission in Irvine that same day. One of the issues that Mr. Lantz brought to Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director, was that only phone companies can implement broadband projects and cities should be eligible to be awarded the PUC grants. Mr. Lantz distributed flyers for the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Financing Workshop that is being hosted by the San Gabriel Valley COG on *Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> - 8:45-11:30 a.m. West Covina Cameron Park Community Center, 1305 East Cameron Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790*. Learn about the financing programs offered by the Southern California Regional Energy Center (SoCalREC) and the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. SoCalREC recently established a financing program that provides low interest rate loans, no upfront costs, and standardization of documentation and processing. Municipalities can take advantage of these benefits to finance both energy efficiency and other sustainability projects.
- **South Bay Traffic Forum, LA County Dept. of Public Works – Status** – Jane White distributed the South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report for October. The final detailed plans for the South Bay Fiber Interconnect ITS Project is being reviewed by the County and will soon need affected cities to sign off. Negotiations are being continued with Econolite to purchase the Centracs system for Econolite controller locations in Carson, Hawthorne, Torrance, and Redondo Beach.
- **Caltrans – Update** - Aziz Elattar, newly appointed Planning Deputy District Director, was unable to attend, but Mr. Lantz reported that he met with Mr. Elattar and Lan Saadatnejadi of MTA and discussed PSRs and PSREs. Mr. Elattar is exploring changes in Caltrans procedures to simplify the Caltrans approval process by substituting a permit process for a PSR. Mr. Lantz noted that Metro still requires the PSR / PSRE report to accompany its Call for Projects applications.
- **Metro – Mandatory PMIS Training Update, Board Update-** Fulgene Asuncion reported that 2 of 3 training sessions have taken place for South Bay Cities lead agencies. The third will be held on October 25, and then login information will be sent to each participant soon after. Some technical changes are being made as a result of the initial training. Ms. Asuncion also provided flyers for a green construction policy training, hosted by CARB and MTA on November 8 from 2-4 pm at Long Beach Public Works Department Offices.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee – Update** – Ted Semaan reported (on behalf of Chair Beste) that the Call for Projects was the main topic of discussion. Steve Lantz reminded everyone that that the 2013 Call for Projects draft application package will go before the MTA Board tomorrow and local funding in excess of the minimum required local match in each Call category will only earn a project 5 points instead of 10 in previous Calls. Mr. Semaan also mentioned that the California Natural Resources Agency and Caltrans have announced the joint release of the Guidelines and Application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program. This program offers \$10 million each year for grants to local, state, and federal governmental agencies and to nonprofit organizations. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility. Applications are due on January 4, 2013.

III. **South Bay ITS Plan Project Survey Results** - In order to assess which of the 8 South Bay ITS projects to submit for the 2013 MTA Call, Iteris had distributed a survey to all of the South Bay lead agencies. The surveys asked each agency to indicate

either *support*, *neutral*, or *oppose* for each project, and whether or not it would be willing to serve as the project's lead agency. Based on the results of the survey, 4 of the 8 ITS projects will be submitted for the call: Arterial Detection Gap Project, Event Information Sharing System, Emergency Fall Back Power Project, and SR-110 Harbor Freeway ICMS. Mr. Clelland thanked all the agencies for their input. These projects will go into the implementation plan under ITS.

- IV. **South Bay Strategic Transportation Element (STE) Recommendations** – Alan Clelland gave a brief presentation, describing the timeline of remaining scope and schedule tasks to be completed (assess candidate projects to goals and objectives, establish performance targets and monitoring process, and final STE document). Data needs were identified for evaluations and monitoring, and 45 intersections have been found to be viable candidates for advanced detectors to be co-used as system detectors in the South Bay Highway Program Detection Plan.
- V. **South Bay COG boundaries** (Attachment B) – Steve Lantz said that Jacki Bacharach recently discovered that the SBCCOG has no officially adopted boundaries. With the need to consider eligibility of infrastructure projects within the Measure R South Bay Highway Program, a question has arisen regarding SBCCOG boundaries in the City and County of Los Angeles. The SBCCOG Steering Committee proposed boundaries that would cross the City of Los Angeles (District 15) at Alondra Blvd and that would not include the unincorporated community of West Athens (northeastern border ends at El Segundo Blvd). On October 23, a second option was created at the request of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' office. It would extend the City of LA's northern boundary as well. This second option includes West Athens (northeastern border ends at 105 freeway). This issue will be brought before the SBCCOG Board on October 25, in an effort to clarify the SBCCOG's borders with enough time to support the appropriate projects for the 2013 Call.
- VI. **Measure R Updates** – Steve Lantz made the following remarks:
- **Measure R Quarterly Report** (Attachment C)- This report reflects a lot of work that is currently going on. This is the first time this report has been released, so please ask if you have questions. Chair Beste emphasized the importance of lead agencies keeping their project schedules constantly updated in their monthly reporting.
  - **SBHP Project Progress Chart** (Attachment D)- This Gantt chart shows the status of projects' schedules. If a project is more than 6 months late, it is labeled in red and the Funding Agreement will require an amendment. Please be mindful that Metro wishes to avoid amending Funding Agreements for little changes. Alan Clelland reminded everyone that if a project falls behind in schedule, costs will increase.
  - **Draft SBHP Candidate Projects List** (Attachment E)- these will be included in the update of the SBHP Implementation Plan. From this list, projects will be selected for preparation of 2013 Metro Call for Projects applications. This is a living document and will be constantly updated as requested by lead agencies. The SBCCOG wants to keep current with changes in lead agency priorities such as a new Public Works Director or City Council change may lead to changes in lead agency's priority of projects.
  - **Metro Call for Projects and PSR/PSRE Preparation Update**- 1 Gardena, 2 Torrance, and 2 Inglewood projects are requesting assistance. The SBCCOG funding for technical assistance is almost fully committed and the PSR deadline is fast approaching so the SBCCOG is officially closing this financial assistance opportunity for this round.
  - **Program Management Course Update**- The SBCCOG had nothing but positive feedback. Certificates of participation or completion will be mailed with a voluntary quiz and evaluation survey; those who pass the quiz may use their hours of participation for Continuing Education Credits. The SBCCOG will archive the class materials, but the consulting firm who facilitated the course has asked that the materials not be shared with anyone who did not attend the sessions. The Gateway Cities COG is also interested in providing this course to its member agencies.
  - **Measure J ballot measure Update** (Attachment G)- Mike Bohlke expressed his hope that Metro will protect funding for second and third decade projects as it accelerates funding by committing future Measure R for debt service on the accelerated projects. Steve Lantz mentioned the issue of unintended consequences, should the Measure pass. Rail projects would be accelerated by Metro converting Measure R Transit Subfund escalation contingency funds into acceleration debt service funds. We do not believe that Measure R Highway Subfunds have been committed, but Metro has not yet adopted a policy addressing what happens to the Highway Subfund Contingency funds if Highway Subfund projects are swapped to fund new rail projects within the Transit Subfund. Mr. Bohlke hopes that the escalation funding from the highway subfund will not be taken before the SBCCOG identifies if it wants to accelerate highway projects or switch the funds to the rail side. He and Mr. Bohlke are hoping for a Metro Board motion in November that will protect escalation funds.
- VII. **Other Business**- Chair Beste announced that the Coalition for Affordable Street Lights will meet on November 8. Alan Clelland of Iteris brought a sign-up sheet and flyers for an information session about a new program called Blue Commute. Iteris is in a Public/Private Partnership with the County of Los Angeles DPW to implement a traveler information system to benefit the employees in the aerospace and high-tech area of El Segundo using Federal funds. Iteris has contributed the software, and other services such a promotion and marketing, and is being paid for modifications to make it specific to Los

Angeles County. The system is open for the public to use and the goal is to have enough subscribers for the service to continue without the need for government funds after an initial two-year operational period. This contract-free program is an affordable personalized traffic information system that delivers the most accurate traffic information available for the greater Los Angeles Metropolitan area. Features include: speed and travel times on regular routes (both to and from your destination), alerts when incidents or congestion occurs during your commute (offering alternative routes), and the fastest real-time routes from-point-A-to-point-B while traveling (by calling automated phone system). Meetings have been held with Raytheon, Boeing, El Segundo Chamber of Commerce, and Kilroy Realty.

VIII. Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm until November 28, 2012. If you would like to add an item to the agenda please e-mail [Marcy@southbaycities.org](mailto:Marcy@southbaycities.org) before Mon., November 26, 2012.