

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Livable Communities Working Group

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

New Location

**South Bay Environmental Services Center
20285 Western Ave., Suite 100**

MINUTES

I. Welcome & Introductions

Attendees: Eric Haaland (Manhattan Beach), Leza Mikhail (RPV), Christopher Palmer (Hawthorne), Alicia Velasco (Lomita), Jessica Reyes (CSULB student), Aaron Gudelj and Sonali Tambe (Hermosa Beach), Rosemary Lackow, David Magarian, Mohja Rhoads, Wally Siembab (SBCCOG).

II. Minutes for February 15, 2012 – Received and Filed

III. Introduction to GIS and the South Bay GIS Working Group

Sonali Tambe
GIS Analyst, City of Hermosa Beach

Mohja Rhoads gave a brief introduction of the GIS Working Group and introduced Sonali who has been with the GIS Working Group since 2004. Sonali proceeded with a slide presentation, a copy of which can be viewed on the SBCCOG website at: <http://www.southbaycities.org/files/GIS%20Presentation%202.pdf>

Main points

- GIS has the unique capability of storing geographic features in files (“map layers”)
- Main GIS components: 1) hardware such as GPS collection tools, 2) software (from ESRI) 3) data (vector and raster are two types) 4) people or GIS professionals
- Absolutely essential to have proper staffing to operate and manage.
- 16 cities involved and established 16 years ago (1995) when Mike Calzado chaired 1st meeting, Barry White from Carson chaired until I 2004-05.
- Major WG projects: Traffic Alerter System (2001); Pilot Storm Drain Project (County Sanitation, 2003); COG General Plan (2004); LA Co. Address Management System (2005); LAR-IAC LA County Image Acquisition Consortium (aerials 2006, 2008, 2010); Industry Clusters (Carson -2006); Street Centerline Project (2007-2008); LA Co. Location Management System (2010); GeoPola (Port of LA – 2010); Group Data Maps (2011).
- Role of GIS in cities: support for all departments. Examples of city GIS projects: inventory and tracking of assets, data analysis, project and event planning, disaster planning, economic develop projections, sustainability analysis – all must depend on good data.

- Many examples of GIS mapping applications by South Bay cities: sewer network, inventory and tracking physical condition (Public Works); land use studies, site analysis (Community Development); visual presentations, e.g. aerial photography maps (community meetings, Neighborhood Watch, PD address maps)
- COG city-wide maps include: soils and natural hazards, emergency response, transportation, community features, fire runs.
- Challenges: bringing 16 cities together to agree on a design for data bases that will be useful for whole sub-region, conversion of multi formats to single format.
- Benefits: comprehensive sub-region and physical data, accuracy, high resolution, useful tools (e.g. LAR-IAC allows measuring building height; with CAMS can manage building addresses).

Discussion

Q. David: will cities have data, when building permits are issued?

A. Sonali: Not for small activities, and not for all cities. It was noted that many cities, Hawthorne excepted, have computerized permitting and tracking capability.

Q. David: how can the COG access the sub-regional data files?

A. Sonali: contact the County – will give him Mark Renninger’s number.

Q. Alicia: commented would like to have street view

A. Sonali some companies have this available; recommended LAR-IAC as an awesome program, again can contact Mark at LA County.

Q. David: commented that the website <http://solarmap.lacounty.gov> is an amazing resource. You submit an address to get a lot of info as to solar capability for a specific address, but noted this is a rooftop analysis only.

Q. Wally asked if any of these projects are in “real time”?

A. Sonali: very few , because that requires a lot of resources to maintain the program.

Sonali said she would be happy to convert presentation to pdf and email to us.

Next, Mohja made a brief presentation on two GIS products that she learned of from Google webinars.

API products:

Can embed in your website – viewers go your site, not GOOGLE, but there’s a limit to hits: 2,000 per day) common example: retail store locator. The background map is from GOOGLE, features tracking applications in real time. Application examples: Health and Human Resources: map of AID testing sites. Applications include layer overlays: these have basic coding requirements (per David M). An example: US Department of State: tracking where Hilary Clinton is at any time. Benefit: users don’t have to leave map to get info.

Q. Is there programming in GIS?

A. Mohja: there is programming you can do in GIS but GIS doesn’t necessarily require programming skills. She cited the API program using Google Earth, ESRI data: if you inquire how far can you drive in 1, 3, 5 minutes? The program sends

request to ESRI, which prepares polygons that show driving times – the user clicks on the polygons which yields the answers which can include demographics.

Google Earth Pro:

Costs about \$400/ year. Benefits: can do quick area calculations, get elevation profiles, draw circles and polygons, visualize spatial and geospatial data.

Mohja displayed and demonstrated Wally's maps for the Sustainable South Bay Transportation Land Use strategy. Slide 1: Mature Suburban Model; shows how things grow which is useful in discussing our model and possible changes as we go forward in discussing with SCAG. Slide 2: TOD Model shows giant mixed use projects along corridors. Slide 3 Neighborhood Development Model: more egalitarian everyone gets to walk.

Q. Alicia: in developing the strategy did we look at the ratio of commercial to residential? What is proper ratio?

A. Wally: this question is very relevant to the upcoming Compass project. We are looking at 4.5 square miles and 25 intersections. Using the model will need to figure out the optimum distribution of functionality –or understand what types of uses can be supported in this 4 square mile area.

Q. Mohja: what about the economies of scale that big retail developers like?

A. Wally: this, along with Alicia's question will be one work product from our consultant. There will be three case study sites at existing intersections: in Gardena, at Normandie, and in Lennox at Inglewood Boulevard (Century to Imperial) and the third case study will be in Hermosa on PCH. The latter will be potentially difficult as there are a lot of car dealerships on PCH that are high revenue uses, and the neighborhood development model doesn't address how to deal with this "cash cow" issue. That would potentially be another work product.

Wally noted the next Compass grant cycle is coming up. The COG wants examples in the South Bay and will seek funding in the next round.

IV. Review major projects about to begin:

Wally Siembab
SBCCOG

Regional and Sub-Regional PEV Readiness Planning

Wally announced that this project is about to start, and that the Luskin Center at UCLA is the consultant. The consultant will be coming to each city to talk about how to make homes ready. It might be that a 110 electrical outlet will be enough, possibly just taking longer. Gardena City Manager Mitch Lansdell took a BEV home, 30 % charged and found could easily charge overnight. We need to figure out how much charging is really needed and where to put the level 2 (220) charging stations. Wally passed out a handout, a spreadsheet that shows features of charging stations to be used in evaluating various vendors. The COG is planning to develop an umbrella purchase order that we can give to cities to use for installing charging stations, that will be compatible throughout the south bay.

Compass 2012 – Neighborhood Oriented Development Feasibility Study

Wally noted that this has been funded and a kick-off meeting will be held next month. Project will study the potential for neighborhood oriented development in 3 areas (as earlier discussed in this meeting).

EVSE Vendor Workshop

Wally advised cities to not put out a call for vendor proposals on their own for level 2 stations. Check with the COG first. Again he pointed to a handout indicating evaluation categories for up to 14 vendors that he advised attendees take back to their cities as a resource. The COG has compiled this info and is organizing a chargeport vendor fair for the cities to attend.

V. Updates

Wally Siembab and David Magarian

BEV AQMD Proposal (meeting March 15) – report

Wally noted that AQMD has decided to fund an extension to study the battery full power range vehicles. The study will use a 5-vehicle fleet, last 2 years and is scheduled to start in July. He welcomed ideas from the cities, on how to solicit distribution. Now that these cars have more range, how do we market this? Eric asked about the connectors that will be used for the participants – will be 110 or 220? Wally said will most likely start out using a 110 and then if needed, a portable 220 compatible connector. Early evidence is that a 110 will be sufficient.

SBCCOG Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Application

This application involving five of our cities will be submitted in early April. The cities involved are: Carson, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes and Redondo Beach. The purpose of this project is to educate the public about the Sustainable South Bay Strategy, ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) mode options and charging infrastructure.

Complete Streets Conference and upcoming Toolbox Tuesday

Jacki and Wally went to a complete street conference downtown, but was disappointed in that it seemed to be oriented more towards bicycle mode, while was expecting would encompass all modes. Toolbox Tuesday: SCAG is offering a toolbox on complete streets next Tuesday at SCAG's office.

ESC's Climate Action Planning – no report

LUV Extension - report

See BEV report above.

VII. Other Business

Alicia brought up APA conference coming up in April – anyone going? Eric is going.