

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – November 10, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Attendees: Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Gilbert Marquez (Carson); Lifan Xu (El Segundo); Kevin Kwak (Gardena); Alex Chou (Lawndale); Erick Lee, Prem Kumar & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes); Art Reyes (Torrance); Jimmy Shih & Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans); John Ickis, Maggie Cheung & Samantha Miller (LACDPW); Steve Lantz, David Leger & Amina Karwa (SBCCOG); Constance Turner (SCE); Robert Cruz (SoCalGas); Megan Collins (Cox); Richard Galvin (GPA); Diego Cadena (HDR); Myriam Frausto (Mark Thomas); Marc Violett (Michael Baker); Janna McKhann (NexTecSystems); Cheryl DeMucci (Paragon); Daniel Likasik (Parson); Mabel Chan (Rincon)

I. Self-Introductions and Approval of October 13, 2021 IWG Meeting Notes – Mr. Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. The October 13, 2021 meeting notes were approved without objection.

II. Agency & Other Update Reports

A. SBCCOG: Mr. Leger announced the SBCCOG has started planning for the General Assembly titled 'Back? to the Future' in March 2022 at the Carson Community Center and SBCCOG is accepting sponsorships right now.

B. L.A. County DPW – South Bay Traffic Forum Update: Mr. Ickis reported there are very minimal updates this month. There were only two changes. First, for Centracs, new controllers will be ordered in November/December to replace incompatible units. For TSSP, the only change is for Avalon Blvd: they are going to have to do an additional plan set with new elevations. The full report is available online here: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HANDOUT ITS-TSSP-status-November-2021-Final.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HANDOUT_ITS-TSSP-status-November-2021-Final.pdf)

C. L.A. Metro Updates

- **L.A. Metro Board Actions:** Mr. Lantz reported that Metro is continuing to work on its free fare programs with emphasis on their low-income riders. Fare payment enforcement will resume January 10. As that occurs there will be promotional discount programs for fares. Also, Metro is modernizing the highway program to allow active transportation, transit, and TDM projects to be included. Mr. Lantz shared that Metro Board staff recommended clarity on the appeal process. Mr. Lantz also informed the group about Cycle 4 of the Open and Slow Streets Grant program which is 100% focused on equity-focused communities.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee Actions :** The Streets and Freeways meeting was held on October 21. They will continue with virtual meetings monthly. Mr. Zandvliet reported that Cycle 11 of the HSIP grants will begin in May 2022 with approximately \$160M available statewide. Workshops are being planned for the grant cycle. Metro and the State are also asking the CTC to supplement existing ATP Cycle 5 with \$2B in additional funding for the backlog of projects. ATP Cycle 6 will begin in March 2022. Mr. Zandvliet also announced that Metro presented on its Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) mitigation program that is being initiated, which will improve compliance with CEQA VMT requirements. More information will be provided at future meetings.
- **Volunteers for Metro TAC Representatives** – Please contact David Leger, of SBCCOG, if interested. SBCCOG is still looking for a primary volunteer and an alternate.

D. Caltrans South Bay Projects Update : Mr. Shih reported that the Western Ave project in Rancho Palos Verdes is nearly complete.. Caltrans is working with Metro on the cooperative agreement for the PCH corridor project. Project progress continues as scheduled at this time. Mr. Shih's full report is available online at: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HANDOUT_Caltrans-Project-Updates.pdf

Mr. Semaan asked Mr. Shih if Caltrans could present an update on the PCH project as a spotlight presentation in the new year. Mr. Shih will work with the Project Manager and the SBCCOG to arrange the presentation.

III. Measure R and Measure M Updates

-FY22-23 Measure R & Measure M South Bay Metro Budget Request Process Update : Mr. Lantz reminded the group that the deadline for new project applications and requests for existing project funding augmentations is December 1. The applications will be reviewed in December/January and will go to the SBCCOG Board for approval in February.

IV. Updates on Local Travel Network (LTN) Implementation: Corridor Development and Planning: Mr. Leger reported that the SBCCOG identified 2 corridors in the South Bay to begin implementation of the project: 1. The Inland corridor of Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Gardena; 2. The Beach Cities corridor of El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach. SBCCOG staff continues to meet with the cities to refine the LTN routes through each city. The SBCCOG will also be releasing an RFP to develop street markings, signage and wayfinding designs for the eventual implementation.

V. Updates on South Bay Fiber Network Implementation: Mr. Lantz announced the project is nearing completion, but there is one last work order with a couple more sites, one of which is the Torrance Transit Center. Staff is aiming for a December refinement of the final work order, but the goal is to have everything done by the end of the fiscal year in June 2022. SBCCOG is working with its contractor for a phase 2 expansion of the network which would include non-transportation uses such as economic development. SBCCOG staff continues to explore additional transportation-related projects and applications that would utilize the SBFN.

VI. “Dig Once” policy roundtable discussion

- **CalSTA Dig Once White Paper circa 2017:** Mr. Kumar shared that Manhattan Beach implemented a policy in 2017 and has seen no success in implementing it. The policy was limited to open trenches of more than 300 feet since segments of conduit less than that don't provide much utility. Utility companies were opposed to the idea when it was proposed. Mr. Kumar also noted that there have been some benefits from the policy implementation such as: regular meetings with the utilities to minimize construction impacts to residents and businesses, particularly in advance of resurfacing projects; standards were created for trenchless communication projects so there was some order to the process of companies installing fiber; a standard was created for 5G implementation; and the use of residential undergrounding districts that help put multiple utilities into one trench instead of each utility trenching for itself.

Mr. Cruz, the new Franchise and Fees manager for SoCalGas, commented that they generally oppose dig-once policies and reiterated the opportunities to work with cities for further coordination, communication, and collaboration.

VII. 2022 IWG meetings: presentations & topics roundtable discussion

Mr. Lantz noted that Econolite has offered to present on the changing role of traffic signals in cities at a 2022 IWG meeting. Committee members expressed interest in having the presentation. Mr. Lantz also requested any potential speakers on pedestrian/bicycle safety innovations and safe routes to schools as those are being emphasized at Metro currently.

Mr. Semaan requested that Caltrans present on their PCH project.

Mr. Zandvliet offered a presentation on the MBATS project design for some time in early spring as there will be more to report at that time. Mr. Semaan thanked him as MBATS ties in to the South Bay Fiber Network and what Econolite would be presenting on as well.

VIII. November SBCCOG Transportation Update: No verbal updates.

IX. 3-Month Look Ahead: Mr. Leger noted he does not think there are any critical issues to bring up in December. Mr. Semaan recommended the IWG go dark in December and resume in January.

X. Announcements / Adjournment: Mr. Semaan adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m. until January 12th, 2022. To propose an item for the agenda, please email David Leger (DavidL@southbaycities.org) by January 1, 2022.