

## South Bay Cities Council of Governments Transit Operators Working Group

September 2, 2021

### Meeting Notes

Attendees: Leslie Scott & Diane Amaya (Beach Cities Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); James Lee (Torrance Transit); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

#### 1) Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the July 8, 2021 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

#### 2) Transit Operator Issues and Concerns Including COVID-19 Impacts

Mr. Lantz opened discussion for the agencies to share pandemic and general issues and concerns.

Ms. Pynn reported that GTrans has started to enforce fares again which has been going well thus far. GTrans has been holding community meetings on a service restoration plan that will increase service consistent with a plan that was approved by the Gardena City Council prior to COVID-19 but was deferred due to the pandemic. Ridership has started to rise as well. Ms. Pynn also announced that GTrans will be launching its Stadium Express Line on September 7<sup>th</sup>. It will start at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center and end at the SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, with a stop at the Hawthorne/Lennox C Line station. Despite some initial issues with traffic delays, the schedule was finalized at a 30-minute trip after several trial runs. The service will be offered all day, all year long, for \$4/person with special rates for seniors and students.

Mr. Lee echoed some of Ms. Pynn's experiences with issues at the stadium and noted that Torrance Transit is not launching its new service to the stadium yet. At this time, Torrance Transit is not yet enforcing fare collection, but is working towards full service and fare enforcement. Mr. Lee also shared that Torrance Transit has expressed concerns to Long Beach Transit and Carson over the process by which Long Beach Transit is expanding service into the city. There are issues around duplication of service and not following prescribed protocols that have concerned Torrance and that they are attempting to work through with Long Beach Transit.

Ms. Amaya reported that Beach Cities Transit has resumed regular service but is not yet enforcing fares. Riders have largely been complying with mask requirements. Ridership numbers are still low but are beginning to climb. Ms. Scott added that the Transit Center construction is progressing well. Reviews are underway for the RFP for facility security services. The grand opening is currently scheduled for January 2022.

#### 3) Measure R and Measure M Updates

##### - Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program approval

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board will be voting on the remaining SBTIP projects at the September meeting.

##### - FY22-23 Measure R & Measure M South Bay Metro Budget Request Process

Mr. Lantz provided a brief update on funding available in both Measure R and Measure M. He explained that after the decennial transit transfer and funding reserved to complete current commitments, the Measure R program is almost entirely programmed through the end of the measure in 2039. At this time, SBCCOG staff is not recommending accepting new Measure R projects. Measure M projects will be accepted.

#### 4) Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

##### - Metro Fareless System Initiative

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro staff will be presenting to the SBCCOG Transportation Committee on the FSI at the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Pynn shared that Metro is continuing to meet with the municipal operators and is also working to enroll school districts to participate. There appear to be hurdles around logistics and overall coordination.

Ms. Scott shared that she previously worked with the LA County Office of Education and shared some thoughts that school districts may have when they are approached by Metro. She explained that Metro's formula for cost-sharing is based on K-12 student populations, even though riders are largely 14-17 years old, so the cost to participate may be hard for districts to approve. She explained that if the K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students were excluded from the formula, the cost to participate may be lower which could get more districts enrolled.

- **I-405 Comprehensive Multi-Modal Corridor Plan**

Mr. Lantz gave an overview of the plan, explaining that it will position Metro and the region for SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridor Program funding. He went on to briefly explain Metro's I-405 Express Lane study currently underway and noted that the SBCCOG Board will likely be sending a letter sharing concerns about the project.

**5) September 2021 Transportation Update:** Item was received and filed.

**6) Three Month Look-Ahead:** Item was received and filed.

**7) Announcements/Adjournment – Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to October 7, 2021, at 2 p.m.