

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Transit Operators Working Group

November 4, 2021

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Steve Lantz, Aaron Baum, David Leger & Amina Karwa (SBCCOG); Joyce Rooney & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Jason Jo (Carson); James Lee (Torrance Transit); Jennifer Abro (GTrans)

1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the October 7, 2021 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

2. Transit Operator Issues and Concerns Including COVID-19 Impacts

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

Ms. Rooney informed the group that the Redondo Beach Transit Center might not be completed until late February. Meanwhile they are working on the RFP process- they went out to bid for transit security this summer and just need to get approved by council. The RFP for property management services has also been released. They issued a transit study RFP a couple weeks ago, which is due December 2, for an operational analysis and zero emission bus fleet plan.

Mr. Lee informed the group that Torrance Transit is also experiencing delays in completing their Transit Center, due to supply chain bottlenecks. They are also having issues with manpower. Ridership has increased significantly, a 20% jump since June. They are delaying the start of NFL stadium service to ensure compliance with FTA rules.

Ms. Abro sat in for Dana Pynn. She reported that GTrans started to participate in Metro's GoPass on November 1. The schools don't have TAP cards yet but GTrans is trying to push Metro to receive them.

Mr. Jo reported that Carson still plans to use Long Beach Transit to serve the main arterials throughout the city. Torrance Transit and Long Beach Transit are still working to resolve service coordination issues surrounding their new service into Carson. The city is working on an inventory of bus stops in the city for all operators. The city is also looking to possibly restart Carson Circuit service that would serve medium-sized neighborhood streets to provide better connections to the main Long Beach Transit stops.

Mr. Greene reported Metro is working on an electrification project at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center which would include installation of up to 8 overhead chargers. Metro is also looking to electrify the entire fleet that is based in Division 18 in Carson. Mr. Greene explained that Metro had planned on electrifying the fleet stationed in El Monte first, but it appears that the Carson site is easier to do initially. This means that routes in the South Bay could be electrified sooner than expected. The Silver Line is expected to be electrified in the next 18 months and the project at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center will help accomplish that. Metro will be changing schedules on December 19th but they are not making any route changes in the South Bay. Resumption of fare collection on Metro buses will begin on January 10th.

3. Measure R and Measure M Updates

The deadline for submitting new project applications or supplemental funding requests for active projects in the FY22-23 Measure R & Measure M South Bay Metro Budget Request Process is December 1, 2021)

Mr. Leger asked the transit agencies to reach out if they need a one-on-one meeting but because the South Bay Transit Investment Program list of projects was approved a few months ago, there are likely no updates needed at this time. If so, updates should be submitted by the deadline. Annie Chu is the contact at L. A. Metro for funding agreements for the transit projects. Mr. Leger will share her contact information with today's

meeting attendees.

4. SBCCOG Local Travel Network Implementation Update

Mr. Baum provided an overview of the project as it currently stands, explaining that SBCCOG staff has been meeting with Phase 1 corridor cities to further refine the planned routes and seek city approval of those routes. The SBCCOG will also be issuing an RFP for wayfinding and signage planning in the new year.

5. South Bay Fiber Network Update & Phase 2 Development Discussion

Mr. Baum reported that the SBCCOG is in the process of completing the scope covered in the Metro funding agreement which will end in June 2022. SBCCOG is working on the development of Phase 2 which includes smart applications as well as opportunities to leverage the network to support transit needs. The SBCCOG is additionally looking at last mile providers to provide service in economic zones and potentially residential areas within the cities.

Mr. Baum also shared that SBCCOG has an outreach contract with MOEV for a CEC project which partnered with GTrans as their study partner exploring the confluence of smart grid and microgrid for providing electricity for the electric buses. The SBCCOG's role is an outreach role and sharing what the study group learned from the project. This study is a 2+ year project so updates will be provided to the working group as they are available.

6. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

- Metro Go Pass (Fareless System) Initiative:

Ms. Rooney noted that there is little interest in the cities served by Beach Cities Transit, so they will not participate yet.

Mr. Lee reported that Torrance Transit will be bringing an item to their City Council in November about participating in Go Pass.

- Vermont Transit Corridor Extension Feasibility Study:

Mr. Leger reported that Metro held a workshop yesterday about the project and the final feasibility study will be prepared in March 2022.

- Green Line to Torrance Update:

Mr. Lantz announced that the scoping process is over. Metro is preparing the draft EIR and has been doing virtual walking tours of the right of way. They expect to have the draft EIR in the Spring and it's going to be on the two alternatives- right of way and Hawthorne Blvd. Mr. Lantz shared that he thinks Hawthorne Blvd has significant challenges for them. Union Pacific sent them a letter requesting to preserve rail access for their customers on both sides of the right of way which presents a significant design challenge for Metro.

- Green Line Mid-Life Rebuild / Improvement Project Status:

Mr. Lantz shared that the SBCCOG was going to send a letter to Metro about when the mid-life rebuild would be scheduled. The SBCCOG's Executive Director had an opportunity to speak to Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins who shared that Metro knows the mid-life upgrades are needed, but is not sure what the schedule, scope and budget are at this time. Metro will work with the SBCCOG to get more information. Mr. Lantz explained that after that conversation, the SBCCOG decided not to send the letter and will instead agendaize it during the next SBCCOG committee and Board cycle.

6. November 2021 Transportation Update: Item was received and filed.

7. Three Month Look-Ahead: Item was received and filed.

8. Announcements / Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m. to January 6, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.