

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee

November 8, 2021

Meeting Minutes

*(Held virtually via Zoom)*

**COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:31 A.M. A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AT 10:32 A.M.**

**I. Welcome / Self-Introductions**

**In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:**

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach)  
Chris Pimentel, Vice Chair (El Segundo)  
Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)

John Cruikshank (Rancho Palos Verdes)  
Luke Klipp (Supervisor Hahn’s Office)  
Lilly O’Brien (Supervisor Mitchell’s Office)

**Non-Voting Representatives**

Don Szerlip, Metro SB Service Council

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)

**Also in attendance:**

Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)  
Julian Lee (Lawndale)  
Carla Dillon (Lomita)  
Erick Lee (Manhattan Beach)  
Ramzi Awwad (Rancho Palos Verdes)  
Shin Furukawa (Torrance)  
Steve Finton (Torrance)  
Dan Kopulsky (Caltrans)  
Jimmy Shih (Caltrans)

Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)  
Maggie Cheung (LA County DPW)  
Mark Dierking (Metro)  
Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)  
Vikas Manocha (Econolite)  
Holly Osborne (Public)  
Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)  
Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)  
David Leger (SBCCOG)

**II. Public Comment** – no public comment received.

**III. Consent Calendar**

**A. September 13, 2021 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED**

**B. October 11, 2021 Transportation Committee Meeting Notes – RECEIVED AND FILED**

**C. November 2021 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED**

**MOTION** by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member Pimentel, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Abstention by Committee Member Cruikshank. No objection. Motion passes.

**IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates**

**A. Infrastructure Working Group Update**

Mr. Semaan shared at the last IWG, SBCCOG staff provided updates on the Local Travel Network and South Bay Fiber Network implementation. There were also discussion and updates on the Measure R and M call for projects.

**B. Transit Operators Working Group Update** – No update provided

### **C. Metro Service Council**

Mr. Szerlip reported that the Service Council will be returning to its normal meeting schedule which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 9:30am.

### **V. Caltrans District 7 South Bay Projects Update**

Mr. Shih provided an update on various Caltrans projects taking place in the South Bay. His report with detailed project updates is available here: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/HANDOUT\\_Caltrans-Report-.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/HANDOUT_Caltrans-Report-.pdf)

Committee Member Cruikshank asked Mr. Shih if he knew when the Western Avenue ADA ramp project in RPV/San Pedro would be completed. Mr. Shih noted that he believes it will be completed in December but will verify with the project manager.

### **VI. Measure R and Measure M Metro Budget Request Update**

Mr. Lantz reported that the deadline to submit applications for either new projects or funding augmentations for existing projects is December 1<sup>st</sup>. SBCCOG staff will review applications in December/January and make a recommendation to the Committee in February.

### **VII. Metro C Line (Green Line) 30-Year Maintenance**

#### **A. Discuss SBCCOG & GCCOG joint letter to Metro re: 30-year maintenance schedule, scope, budget**

Mr. Lantz provided a brief overview of Metro's rehabilitation process for rail lines, explaining that most items fall into either a 15-year or 30-year timeframe. The A Line (Blue Line) just finished its midlife rebuild which included extra work besides replacing outdated and obsolete equipment. Metro added or upgraded grade separations and other infrastructure improvements as well. Metro has indicated it is time for the C Line's upgrades, but there is not a specific scope, schedule, or budget.

Mr. Lantz went on to explain that this is the opportunity for Metro to upgrade C Line stations to 3-car platforms, upgrade electrical power supplies, and all the other upgrades that were identified as necessary to facilitate one-seat rides a few years ago as part of the Crenshaw-LAX/C Line operating plan issue.

Committee Chair Horvath added that the wye-interchange improvements should also be requested to facilitate the one-seat ride.

Ms. Bacharach noted that the letter should also include something about on-going maintenance. She elaborated that New York and DC systems have become unreliable because they don't do adequate maintenance. Considering that ridership has been declining for so long, the system cannot afford to become unreliable.

Committee Vice-Chair Pimentel encouraged any letter to also include safety and security upgrades which go hand-in-hand with maintenance. If riders do not feel safe, ridership will not grow.

Committee Member Klipp shared that Supervisor Hahn worked with Supervisor Mitchell on a motion to study how C-Line improvements could be included as part of the I-105 ExpressLanes project and that it may be prudent to include reference to that in the letter. If significant resources are being poured into the freeway project, there should also be improvements to transit that runs along it.

Committee Member O'Brien supported Committee Member Klipp's comments and offered to meet with staff to discuss it further.

Mr. Lantz thanked the Committee for their comments. A draft letter will be prepared for an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Lantz announced that staff is asking the Committee to add an item regarding a support letter for a Metro grant application to electrify the Silver Line to the agenda for discussion and recommending Board approval. A draft support letter and grant application fact sheet were shared with the Committee and are available here: <https://southbaycities.org/event/transportation-committee-meeting-3/>

**MOTION** by Committee Member Cruikshank, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **ADD** the support letter discussion to the agenda. Approved without objection.

Committee Member Cruikshank asked if the project would be battery powered buses. Committee Member Klipp confirmed that they are battery powered buses.

Committee Member Klipp thanked the SBCCOG for considering this support letter. Supervisor Hahn has been a strong advocate for the electrification of the Silver Line. He asked that the letter clarify the scope of the project would be to electrify from El Monte to the San Pedro terminus.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Klipp, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **RECOMMEND BOARD APPROVAL** of the support letter with the minor clarification about the San Pedro terminus. Approved without objection.

#### **VIII. Metro Updates**

Mr. Lantz announced that Metro ridership is approximately 75% of what it was pre-pandemic which is a good sign.

Mr. Szerlip shared that Metro is starting a Youth Council and is currently accepting applications. Ms. Bacharach informed Mr. Szerlip that she forwarded the announcement to the South Bay city managers.

#### **IX. Three Month Look-Ahead – RECEIVED AND FILED**

#### **X. Announcements / Adjournment**

Ms. Bacharach reminded everyone that the SBCCOG's General Assembly will be taking place at the Carson Community Center on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm. There will be a slightly shorter program this year. The SBCCOG is looking for event sponsors.

Committee Chair Horvath announced that he will be stepping down as Committee Chair beginning in December because he has accepted a new job that does not provide the same schedule flexibility as his current job. Vice-Chair Pimentel will serve as Chair going forward. Committee Chair Horvath asked that an item be added to the next agenda to name a new Vice-Chair.

Committee Chair Horvath thanked everyone for their participation during his term as Chair and adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m. to December 13, 2021, at 10:30 a. m.