

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transit Operators Working Group

April 7, 2022

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dana Pynn, Chair (GTrans); Joyce Rooney & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Martin Gombert (Palos Verdes Transit); (David Leger & Amina Karwa (SBCCOG)

1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the March 3, 2022 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order by Chair Pynn at 2:03 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

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

Ms. Rooney reported that there were some plumbing issues at the new Redondo Beach Transit Center. The new Transit Center is currently expected to open in July. Mr. Greene asked Ms. Rooney how certain the opening date is at this point. Metro's mid-year re-scheduling is approaching and schedulers are concerned about having hectic schedules if there are going to be further delays in construction. Ms. Rooney will coordinate with Mr. Greene offline in more detail.

3. Proposed Guidelines for Measure M Subregional Equity Program

Mr. Leger explained that when Measure M was approved by the Metro Board, they also created Subregional Equity Programs (SEP) in which the South Bay received \$130M. In 2018, the SBCCOG Board voted to use the South Bay SEP to fund the Centinela Grade Separation project for the Crenshaw/LAX (CLAX) line. In 2020, Metro identified an approximate \$90M cost overrun for the CLAX line.

Mr. Leger explained that Metro has a policy that allows them to request subregions contribute to cost overruns of rail lines being built within their area. Metro staff expected SEP funding to be used for the cost overruns. Metro Board Member Butts worked with then-Metro CEO Phil Washington to come to an agreement where the SBCCOG would contribute its proportionate share of the SEP funding to CLAX cost overruns conditioned on Metro and the City of LA paying their fair share, and Metro agreeing to back-fill the rest of the Centinela Grade Separation costs not covered by the remaining SEP funds. All of this was memorialized in letter which is included in the agenda packet.

Subsequently, Metro staff developed the proposed guidelines for SEPs, also included in the agenda packet. The SBCCOG felt it was important to remind Metro's new CEO of the existing understanding. The SBCCOG Board will be asked to approve a letter to CEO Stephanie Wiggins restating the agreement made under the former CEO.

Mr. Leger asked the group to share any concerns they might have about the guidelines at the upcoming Transportation Committee as they will be making the recommendation to the Board.

4. Crenshaw Line Operating Plan Update

Metro will be attending the May Transportation Committee meeting instead of the April meeting to discuss the Operating Plan. Mr. Leger reported that SBCCOG is in support of the new Operating Plan. The group is welcome to submit comments and feedback before the meeting in May.

Mr. Greene added that Metro will be naming the CLAX line the “K” line. Pre-opening testing is currently underway on the line, however portions of the line will need to close due to the Airport Metro Connector project construction, a project which will connect the LAX terminals with the CLAX line. The northern 7 stations of the CLAX line will operate when opened. The Airport Connector is expected to open in 2024/2025.

5. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

-Metro Go Pass (Fareless System) Initiative

No updates.

1. -Green Line Extension to Torrance

Mr. Greene reported that the walking tours were very well-attended. Ms. Scott attended two walking tours, one of which well organized. She noted that she felt the other was not organized as well and appeared to be slightly biased towards the Hawthorne Blvd. route. She also felt the individual who led that walking tour was not knowledgeable about the transit center under construction in Redondo Beach, but that she was able to answer some questions that attendees had.

6. April 2022 Transportation Update: Item was received and filed.

Mr. Leger informed the group that Metro is beginning to allow access to their NextGen data. Mr. Leger will reach out to Metro to see how to get access and will update the group.

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

8. Transportation Committee Agenda: Item was received and filed.

9. Announcements / Adjournment

Ms. Pynn announced that GTrans had its public hearing on March 31 about making their 7X Stadium Express permanent and provided updates on the service restoration plan. The recommendation will be to maintain the current \$4 fare for the 7X service with a span of service from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. GTrans will also expand its child fare to include ages 5 and under which will go to Council on April 26. They still operating at reduced service, including the Line 4 being suspended. Microtransit is being considered as a replacement to Line 4. Similar to other transit agencies, GTrans is facing operator shortages that are preventing a return to full service.

Ms. Pynn also announced that they will be holding an internal bus rodeo in May that will involve teams led by Councilmembers and will provide non-driving team members an opportunity to drive the buses.

Ms. Rooney reported that Beach Cities is undergoing a transit study with Stantec. Fare collection will resume in October.

Mr. Greene reported that much Metro service on both bus and rail will not be able to be restored by June.

Mr. Gombert announced that PV Transit anticipates getting back to covering all their runs by the end of this month. His agency is also getting started with their rollout plan which is due next July.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. to May 5, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.