

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee

February 14, 2022

Meeting Minutes

(Held virtually via Zoom)

COMMITTEE CHAIR PIMENTEL CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:30 A.M.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)

Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)

James Butts (Inglewood)

Sirley Cuevas (Lawndale)

John Cruikshank (Rancho Palos Verdes)

George Chen (Torrance)

Luke Klipp (Supervisor Hahn's Office)

Lilly O'Brien (Supervisor Mitchell's Office)

Non-Voting Representatives

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach)

Also in attendance:

Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)

Erick Lee (Manhattan Beach)

Helen Shi (Manhattan Beach)

Shin Furukawa (Torrance)

Jill Crump (Torrance)

Gregg Lodan (Torrance)

Art Reyes (Torrance)

Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit)

Kelly Lamare (Caltrans)

Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)

Maggie Cheung (LA County DPW)

Maryam Adhami (LA County DPW)

Mark Dierking (Metro)

Conan Cheung (Metro)

Joseph Forgiarini (Metro)

Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to James Butts)

Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)

Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)

David Leger (SBCCOG)

Amina Karwa (SBCCOG)

II. Public Comment – no public comment received.

III. Consent Calendar

A. January 10, 2022 Transportation Committee Minutes - APPROVED

B. February 2022 Transportation Update – RECEIVED AND FILED

MOTION by Committee Member Cruikshank, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Approved without objection.

SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group Update

Mr. Semaan reported that Hermosa Beach presented on their lane reduction pilot project which provided physical space for dining decks and a bike lane along Pier Avenue and Hermosa Avenue in the Downtown area by removing one lane in each direction. Mr. Semaan also noted that John Iekis volunteered to serve as the IWG Vice-Chair. Mr. Semaan will also be reaching out to fellow public works directors to identify new Metro TAC members.

B. Transit Operators Working Group Update

Mr. Leger reported that the working group reviewed the Metro Budget Request items, discussed preparations for the Super Bowl, as well as COVID-19 impacts on staffing. Ms. Scott added that transit providers received notice from Metro that Metro will be conducting walking tours in the neighborhoods surrounding the proposed Green Line extension to Torrance. Mr. Lantz also added that Metro is currently enforcing fare collection as of January 10th but has also launched expanded discount programs to attract new riders.

C. Metro Service Council – No update provided

No update from the Council was provided, but Ms. Bacharach noted that the SBCCOG is currently accepting nominations for the South Bay Service Council. There are currently 3 seats open, and two incumbents have expressed interest in running again.

IV. Caltrans District 7 South Bay Projects Update

Mr. Carvajal reported that Caltrans will be adopting the 2022 SHOPP projects in March. He also announced that Caltrans’ Director, Toks Omishakin was recently appointed to lead the California State Transportation Agency by Governor Newsom.

Committee Member Cruikshank shared that because of the additional Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) units required of cities, the RPV City Council voted to request Caltrans work with RPV’s Public Works Director to ensure those RHNA impacts are evaluated in upcoming traffic analyses.

V. Measure R And Measure M Metro Budget Request Update – RECOMMENDED BOARD APPROVAL

Mr. Lantz provided an overview of the process, number of projects recommended for funding, and total funding recommendations as part of the Measure R South Bay Highway Program projects and Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program project list

MOTION by Committee Member Cruikshank, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **RECOMMEND BOARD APPROVAL** of the Measure R Metro Budget Request project lists. Approved without objection.

MOTION by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member O’Brien, to **RECOMMEND BOARD APPROVAL** Measure M MSPs Metro Budget Request. Approved without objection. Committee Member Cruikshank abstained due to a professional conflict on one of the projects.

VI. Transportation Projects Supporting Olympic Venues In South Bay Cities

Mr. Lantz reported that South Bay cities should begin evaluating the potential transportation projects that would be needed to support the 2028 Olympics, including venues, athlete housing, and more. Several sites have already been identified, including SoFi Stadium and Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson.

Committee Vice-Chair Valentine asked what types of improvements Mr. Lantz was asking for as well as funding opportunities. Mr. Lantz explained that projects could include reversible lanes, transit lanes, bike infrastructure, and more. He added that there are likely multiple funding opportunities including Measure M and the Olympics committee, but that the scope of the project and longevity of the project may help identify specific sources of funding.

Committee Member O'Brien shared that Metro has developed a list of projects that could be a good starting point. There will be a Games Mobility Committee for the Olympics, which should receive that project list after Metro conducts an evaluation of them.

VII. Presentation by Metro on C Line (Green Line) Mid-life Rehab and Proposed Crenshaw/LAX Operating Plan

a. Letter of Support – TABLED

Ms. Bacharach explained that in 2018, Metro staff developed numerous potential operating plans in advance of the anticipated Crenshaw/LAX (CLAX) line opening. The SBCCOG had serious concerns about several of the operating plans as they impacted Green Line riders who currently have a one seat ride into/out of the South Bay. She also added that the SBCCOG was concerned about information shared by Metro at the time that several Green Line station platforms would require extensions to allow for three-car trains (Metro's standard configuration) as well as traction power upgrades. The SBCCOG and Gateway Cities COG came together in 2018 to recommend Metro adopt a compromise plan (C-3) which would run as a one-year pilot. Metro staff continued recommending their preferred plan, but Supervisor Hahn was able to build support at the Metro Board for the SBCCOG-GCCOG C-3 pilot proposal, which was ultimately adopted. In January 2022, Metro staff approached the SBCCOG with a new operating plan proposal. After that meeting, the SBCCOG recommended Metro staff also meet with GCCOG as they had not been briefed on this new proposal.

Mr. Lantz reviewed the new CLAX operating plan proposal by Metro staff which would provide a one seat ride from Torrance (upon Green Line extension) to the Expo Line on the CLAX line. The Green Line from Norwalk would no longer go south, but would instead go north to the Airport Connector (96th St) station which would then be the transfer point for riders to then either go north on the CLAX line or south via the CLAX/ Green Line South route.

Committee Member O'Brien first asked if all recommended actions were being tabled. Ms. Bacharach thought it was prudent to table any action to allow for further discussion of the issue between Metro and all impacted subregions.

Committee Member O'Brien then asked what prompted the apparent urgency to deviate from the 2018 plan given that the CLAX line is not yet even complete, and will subsequently close portions to allow for the LAX People Mover to connect in, as well as the future Centinela Grade Separation project. Ms. Bacharach shared that she thinks it was the SBCCOG's advocacy to Metro regarding the required station upgrades on the Green Line. She went on to explain that the Green Line mid-life rehab seemed to be a good opportunity to make those upgrades, so the SBCCOG had been encouraging Metro to consider that scope as part of their rehab plans. However, the SBCCOG has not requested a change from the 2018 plan, but could consider supporting an alternative if it's commonly agreed upon.

Committee Vice-Chair Valentine asked Mr. Lantz to explain the need for more power. Mr. Lantz noted that when three-car trains are running high frequency, Metro's current power stations do not provide adequate power to run trains in both directions at the desired train frequency. Mr. Cheung confirmed that certain operating scenarios would require new power substations to run trains at the design standards. He added that Metro staff feels those upgrades would not be needed with the new operating plan proposal.

Committee Member Klipp shared that he also thought it would be good to table this item. He agreed that if a new alternative is mutually agreed upon, the previous plan might not be needed, but that it is also possible there would not be mutual support by the two COGs for the new plan. He reiterated the

history behind the compromise from 2018 and the close vote led by Supervisor Hahn at the Metro Board, ultimately against the staff recommendation and in support of the SBCCOG/GCCOG proposed C-3 one-year pilot operating plan.

Ms. Bacharach asked that Metro staff provide a timeline of when actions are actually needed.

Mr. Cheung noted that the GCCOG is currently being scheduled.

MOTION by Committee Member Klipp, seconded by Committee Member O'Brien, to **TABLE** the item until April. Approved without objection.

VIII. Metro Updates

Mr. Dierking announced that Metro is scheduling walking tours for the C Line extension in March.

IX. Three Month Look-Ahead – RECEIVED AND FILED

X. Announcements / Adjournment

It was proposed that the April Transportation Committee meeting start at 10:00 a. m. to allow for fuller discussion of the CLAX operating plan. The Committee did not oppose the early start time for April.

Committee Chair Pimentel adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.to March 14, 2022, at 10:30 a .m .