

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

January 6, 2022

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz, David Leger & Amina Karwa (SBCCOG); Joyce Rooney (Beach Cities Transit); Dana Pynn (GTrans); Scott Greene (Metro); James Lee & Ryan Plumb (Torrance Transit);

1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the November 4, 2021 Meeting Notes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 2:03 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. Pynn informed the group of the difficulty making service, not having enough service workers, and finding quarantine rules to be nebulous. City closures are also impacting them such as the cancellation of the MLK parade. Ridership is steady but recently dipped due to schools being closed for winter break.

Mr. Lee said Torrance Transit went from 0 to 7 COVID-19 cases and those employees are currently out on quarantine. Torrance is taking COVID-19 protocol seriously. December ridership was lower which was anticipated since the weather was colder but ridership is returning, and is almost reaching 70% of pre-pandemic levels.

Ms. Rooney said service has not yet been impacted by the employees who have contracted COVID-19. The closure of schools is somewhat reducing ridership.

Mr. Lantz brought to the group's attention to an update with Metro and the Green Line and its 3% local contribution requirement. Mr. Lantz explained that Metro is saying that based on track miles only they want city transit departments to allocate from local returns 3%. Metro will allow them to use it on first and last mile investments. Mr. Lantz and Mr. Bohlke (Metro Board Member Butts' Deputy) are pushing to allow the Torrance Transit Center and the Redondo Beach Transit Center count towards that 3% contribution because it would take care of the requirement and they are also pushing for the sub-regional contributions to those projects to count.

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 was December 1, 2021.

Mr. Lantz and Mr. Leger are going through the new projects now and asking questions to clarify the group's cashflow needs. One such question is are any of their projects either deleted or deferred more than the fiscal year that they are in. Mr. Lantz advised that if anyone in the group have any recent developments that would change their cashflow to let them know. Mr. Lantz and Mr. Leger need to

know of any adjustments by February 1.

SBCCOG is also trying to propose to Metro a consolidated administrative agreement for all South Bay Measure R and M programs. Mr. Lantz expects Metro to approve of this and SBCCOG will start the negotiation and try to accomplish this by May.

4. SCAG Regional Transit Lanes Study / South Bay Transit Lanes Network

This is a new study and Mr. Lantz said he is not too familiar with this discussion and asked the group if anyone has heard about this. The group members will research and inquire about this to receive more information on the study.

5. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

- Metro Go Pass (Fareless System) Initiative:

Ms. Pynn informed the group that there are a few new operators and some more community colleges and school districts participating, so it is moving along. The statistics are not very good so far but Ms. Pynn believes that might have to do with schools being closed for the holidays. Of the cards that have been registered, only 22% have been used (4,281 users), but there has been a 36% increase since December.

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

Mr. Lantz explained that the SBCCOG originally proposed to extend the platforms for three car trains since most are currently only two car platforms. Metro is coming back to the SBCCOG with a new operating plan for the Green Line / Crenshaw interface- they want to run a one-seat ride from Torrance to Expo and a one-seat ride from the Norwalk station up to the LAX airport. If a rider wants to go from Norwalk to El Segundo they will transfer at a new transfer facility at the airport connector station. For the foreseeable future Metro is saying they do not need to do more platform extensions because they have sufficient platform capacity to run the frequency they need to run based on the new operating plan. Mr. Lantz said the SBCCOG will receive a more detailed presentation later this month to clarify that and bring it back to the Transportation Committee in February.

-Green Line to Torrance Extension EIR Study Status:

Mr. Lantz informed the group that they are doing the analysis and the draft will come out in February or March 2022 for the formal review process.

6. New Supervisorial District Maps

Mr. Lantz brought to the group's attention to the Supervisorial District realignment in the South Bay that is pretty significant. Janice Hahn retains the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Torrance but the northern and eastern and western part is under the new supervisor, Holly Mitchell. Ms. Bacharach added that the Beach Cities are trying to arrange an introductory reception for the elected officials and Holly Mitchell which should take place sometime in February.

7. January 2022 Transportation Update: Item was received and filed.

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

9. Announcements / Adjournment

Mr. Lee reported that the Torrance Transit Center is approximately 80% complete but is experience shortages on some materials, which are 4-6 weeks out from delivery. Currently, the opening is scheduled for sometime in April.

Ms. Rooney announced that the Redondo Beach Transit Center is also under construction and may be completed in March.

Mr. Greene reported that Metro is going to be running buses for Super Bowl service from the Hawthorne/Lennox C Line station. The service will begin approximately four hours prior to kickoff with tickets only being available online via presale.

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