

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Transit Operators Working Group

June 2, 2022 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dana Pynn, Chair (GTrans); Jason Jo (Carson); Joyce Rooney, Diane Amaya, & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Steve Lantz, David Leger, & Amina Karwa (SBCCOG)

### **1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the May 5, 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**

Mr. Greene reported that service restoration could start as early as September when Metro starts seeing service frequencies back to what was in the NextGen Plan. Service cancellations are down significantly; however, there are still not enough operators and recruiting efforts continue. Metro will be implementing service changes on June 26<sup>th</sup>, but there are no route changes in the South Bay. He noted that Torrance Transit is making several changes to their service, so Metro has been updating its systems to reflect those updates.

Ms. Pynn also reported not having enough operators at GTrans, which has prevented a restoration of some service until late 2022 or early 2023.

Ms. Rooney reported Beach Cities Transit has not missed any routes yet. Ridership is slowly increasing but is still less than pre-pandemic. Construction on the transit center continues.

### **3. Crenshaw Line Operating Plan Update**

Metro is considering two operating plan alternatives referred to as "C2" and "C3". Metro had initially planned on using the C3 operating plan as a one-year pilot, but that decision is being revisited due to delays in the project and inadequate time to evaluate the results and adjust service. Mr. Lantz informed the group that he believes Metro will implement the C2 alternative which would create a one-seat ride from the South Bay terminus of the C-Line (Green) north to the Expo Line. Riders from Norwalk would have to transfer at the LAX station to head either north or south on the Crenshaw/LAX K line. Metro staff will bring the proposals back to the Metro Board sometime in the Fall. Metro will officially recommend the position later in the Winter. Mr. Leger noted that the SBCCOG deferred taking an official position at this time due to the delay in a Metro staff recommendation to their Board.

### **4. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies**

#### **-Green Line Extension to Torrance**

Metro has held a series of walking tours for the community and staff of elected representatives to explain the two proposed route options. Metro expects the draft EIR to be completed in early 2023 with a board selection of the locally preferred alternative at the same time that the Final EIR is completed.

Mr. Lantz noted that Metro would need to acquire property if the Hawthorne Blvd alternative is selected but would not have to purchase any if the rail right-of-way option is chosen.

**-Metro I-105 Integrated Corridor Management Project**

This project will integrate the various transportation networks along the I-105 so partner agencies can manage the corridor as a unified system, to more efficiently manage the impact of incidents/collisions and events. Mr. Leger informed the group that if any of their agencies would like a briefing on what Metro is planning, he could share the Metro project team's contact information.

**-Measure M Subregional Equity Program Guidelines**

Mr. Lantz shared that Metro is discussing how much funding will be accelerated in each subregion for the Measure M Subregional Equity Programs. The South Bay has SEP funding available after 2043, but some of these funds may be used to fund the CLAX line cost overrun and the Centinela Grade Separation project. He added that Metro does not want to bond for these funds as they do not consider them to be Metro programs.

**-Vermont Transit Corridor - South Bay Extension Feasibility Study**

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro has undertaken this study to potentially extend the Bus Rapid Transit line south to PCH from its current planned terminus at 120<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Lantz asked the group to provide any suggestions or comments. Mr. Greene pointed out it is just a study right now and not a project. Mr. Greene informed the group that one of the shortcomings of ridership in the study area is that it duplicates the adjacent J (Silver) line that runs parallel on the I-110 freeway.

**5. June 2022 Transportation Report:** Item was received and filed.

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

**7. Announcements / Adjournment**

TOWG will go dark in July. Mr. Leger reported that there will be presentations on the Metro budget and Metro Bikeshare program at the Transportation Committee Meeting on June 13, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m. to August 4, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.