

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transit Operators Working Group

March 3, 2022

Meeting Notes

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

1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the February 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. Pynn informed the group that the FTA mask mandate was extended to May. Most transit agencies appear to be in solidarity with their operators in regard to requiring administrative staff to wear masks as operator masking requirements are extended. GTrans may follow suit. This week GTrans started to drop temperature checks for employees. Mr. Greene informed the group that Metro does not have a policy developed on this yet although staff mostly wear masks while in operator rest areas, etc. .

Mr. Greene also informed the group that Metro has had issues with customers that ??? and refuse to get off the bus at the end of each run requiring security to be called. Metro will be conducting a survey in the following week throughout the divisions and terminals to evaluate satisfaction among the transit operators with the focus being operator retention.

Ms. Rooney anticipates mask-wearing will also continue with their contracted operator. As far as the city goes, Human Resources has not given any further information.

Mr. Lee informed the group that Torrance has also not given any formal update regarding changes in policy for mask-wearing but the transit agency will continue following FTA requirements.

3. Measure R and Measure M Updates

Mr. Leger informed the group that the SBCCOG Board approved the annual Metro budget request in February and the list was subsequently sent over to Metro the following day. Mr. Leger notified Ms. Pynn that GTrans may be contacted by Metro with follow-up questions. Measure R SBHP is expected to be acted upon in June. Mr. Leger is not certain when Metro will approve the transit portion and whether it will be with Measure R or Measure M, however, it will be approved by the Metro board in the next six months.

4. Metro Construction Market Analysis – Construction Cost Increase Index (Attachment B)

Mr. Lantz informed the group that at its board meeting, Metro staff reviewed costs increases to the capital program and will do a broader market analysis prior to preparing another Long-Range

Transportation Plan update. It appears that Metro construction staff and operations staff have not been communicating adequately to ensure the organization has funding to both build and operate the expansive network it envisions.

5. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies

-Metro Go Pass (Fareless System) Initiative

Ms. Pynn informed the group that the program is working fine overall with only minor issues with implementation. Ms. Amaya also mentioned that several community colleges and Long Beach Unified have either recently approved or will soon be approving participation in the program.

-Green Line Extension to Torrance – Metro staff and consultants continue to prepare the Draft EIR. The public review process should begin in late Summer 2022.

-Crenshaw Line Operating Plan

In regards to the Green Line Extension to Torrance and the Crenshaw Line Operating Plan, Mr. Lantz informed the group that Metro staff will be proposing an operating plan for the connection between the Green line and the Crenshaw LAX line and are inclined to favor a plan referred to as “C2”. C2 provides a one-seat ride between Torrance and the Exposition, but would require a transfer at the LAX station between the Green Line from Norwalk to either the Exposition Line or Torrance. . Mr. Lantz informed the group that this item will be on the Transportation Committee agenda in April and will likely go to the SBCCOG Board for support of the Metro staff recommendation.

I-405 Coordinated Multimodal Corridor Plan

Mr. Lantz informed the group that Metro is going through a review of projects for the I-405 Coordinated Multimodal Corridor Plan which extends the entirety of the I-405 through Los Angeles County. Metro is asking each of the transit agencies and cities to take a look at the list, of which about 125 projects are within the SBCCOG boundaries. Metro is asking city staff by March 15 to either add any missing projects or update information for projects listed. There are two parts to the review: 1) project worthiness 2) and project readiness. Mr. Leger explained to the group that it will be beneficial to have the projects on the list because it opens them up for state funding if Metro chooses to include those projects within a state grant application. The group should submit any updates to Mr. Leger by March 11 so SBCCOG can return suggested edits to Metro by March 15.

6. Transportation projects supporting 2028 Olympics and South Bay Olympic Venues

Mr. Leger informed the group that they should start thinking about what projects they might need to implement (such as facilities needed) to support whatever venues are in their area in the context of receiving grants for the Measure M program or other programs.

Mr. Greene shared an update regarding the Superbowl during this time as well. He explained that Metro seemed to be overprepared and had more service available than was needed that day. Ms. Pynn echoed that sentiment regarding GTrans’ service as well.

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

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

9. Announcements / Adjournment

Mr. Greene informed the group that the Metro Airport Connector Station is finally making some

progress with construction crews starting to remove soil from the site. Accordingly, there will be heavy construction on Aviation Blvd.

Ms. Pynn informed the group that GTrans has a tentatively scheduled March 31 for a public hearing to get feedback on its Line 7X service to see if it should be made permanent. The goal would be to present a plan for a permanent line to City Council following the public hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. to April 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.