

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Transit Operators Working Group

September 1, 2022 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joyce Rooney & Leslie Scott (Beach Cities Transit); James Lee (Torrance Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

### **1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the June 2, 2022 Meeting Notes**

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

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

Ms. Rooney shared that school started on August 17<sup>th</sup> and ridership should start to increase after the Labor Day weekend. She also noted that there is late-start school day for high school students, so bus schedules have had to change to accommodate that. There are reports that more kids are using bikes, e-bikes, and scooters to get to school. Passes will be sold again starting in October. The Redondo Beach Transit Center is still under construction due to some delays in materials, but should be opening around November.

Mr. Lee noted that Torrance Transit had been seeing an increase in ridership until the last COVID wave hit which caused another decline. Operations continue as normal, and ridership has slowly started to increase again. There is heavy bus operator recruitment taking place as there have been a lot of retirements recently. The Transit Center is still under construction but nearing completion. A grand opening will be scheduled.

Mr. Greene reported that Metro's ridership is relatively flat, still about 50% below pre-COVID levels on rail and 33% down on bus service. Metro will be opening the K Line (Crenshaw-LAX) in October. Seven of the 8 new stations will be opening. The Century-Aviation station will remain closed because it is south of the LAX people mover connection at 96<sup>th</sup> Street which is under construction. The LAX people mover is expected to open in late 2024/early 2025.

### **3. Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program Lead Agency Meetings**

Mr. Lantz announced that SBCCOG staff will be scheduling meetings with SBTIP lead agencies to review current projects and discuss potential needs for additional funding.

Mr. Lee shared that they just received the funding agreements from Metro. Three have been sent to the City Attorney and City Council for approval on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The others will be approved in the coming months.

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

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

Mr. Lantz shared that the draft EIR should be completed in January, with public meetings following the

release. In addition to the rail options, there is an alternative under consideration that would eliminate the rail line and instead implement new bus service. Metro staff is still evaluating routing for this option.

**-Crenshaw Line Operating Plan**

Mr. Lantz reported that the K Line will not operate from end to end as noted earlier in the meeting due to the LAX people mover construction. There also needs to be a decision on the Centinela Grade Separation project. Mayor Butts is now supporting a bus shuttle bridge during that construction project instead of a rail shoefly because the shoefly would take away turning lane capacity on Florence at Centinela.

**-Draft Revised Measure M 3% Local Contribution Guidelines for Metro Major Rail Transit Projects**

Mr. Lantz noted that Metro has released draft guidelines for comment.

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

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro has been studying an express busway on Vermont, including a feasibility study south of 120<sup>th</sup> to PCH. They determined that ridership would not be sufficient at this time to make the southern segment of the project cost-effective. The SBCCOG previously mentioned the possibility of working with Metro and local transit operators to augment existing bus service along the line in order to grow ridership. Mr. Lee shared that Torrance Transit has been monitoring the item. Mr. Greene added that GTrans should also be considered as they likely have the most service along the corridor.

**5. Transportation Update Covering August 2022:** Item was received and filed.

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

**7. Announcements / Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m. to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.