

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Transit Operators Working Group

March 9, 2023 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dana Pynn (GTrans); Joyce Rooney (Beach Cities Transit); Scott Greene (Metro); Martin Gombert (PVP Transit); Steve Lantz, David Leger (SBCCOG)

### **1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the November 3, 2022 Meeting Notes**

The virtual meeting was called to order by Ms. Pynn at 2:33 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

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

Ms. Pynn shared that GTrans will soon begin construction on their CNG refueling station project after experiencing some rain-related delays. GTrans also recently reviewed electric buses to consider incorporating into their fleet. GTrans is using depot charging for their electric buses and is using the SCE ChargeReady program to help install them. Mr. Lantz asked if there were EV chargers in the new Transit Centers in Redondo Beach and Torrance. Ms. Rooney shared that when the Redondo Beach Transit Center was built, there was conduit laid for future installation. Mr. Greene added that there are some EV bus charging stations being installed at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center for Metro's Silver Line electrification. It's likely that they will be reserved for Metro buses only, but may be opened up for other operators in the future.

Mr. Gombert reported that PVP Transit is continuing to experience delays in its cutaway bus deliveries. Ridership is approximately 80% of pre-pandemic levels, which is slightly higher than other operators such as Metro. Weekend ridership is nearly at pre-pandemic levels, but weekday ridership recovery has been slightly slower. PVP Transit is currently exploring EV bus conversion opportunities with LA County Sanitation Districts and charging stations at the old landfill in Rolling Hills Estates.

Ms. Rooney announced that the Redondo Beach Transit Center officially opened last month and everything is going well so far. Ridership numbers are about 80% of pre-pandemic levels. Fare collection is being enforced now but there were some issues with the mobile validators, so hopefully revenues will start to meet ridership numbers now that the fare collection problems have been addressed.

### **3. Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program Update**

Mr. Lantz gave a brief overview of the Measure R and Measure M processes and reminded the transit operators that any cashflow adjustments should be sent to Mr. Leger.

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

**-C Line Draft EIR:** Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro team will be presenting to the Transportation Committee and Steering Committee (via a joint meeting) on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Committee will be considering action on a DEIR comment letter (available here: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HANDOUT\\_3.23-Green-Line-To-Torrance-Draft-EIR-Letter-Comments-Questions.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HANDOUT_3.23-Green-Line-To-Torrance-Draft-EIR-Letter-Comments-Questions.pdf)).

Mr. Lantz also shared that Metro has been heavily discussing security issues. Although crime is low on the Metro system, they are increasing the visual presence of uniformed security and sworn law enforcement on buses and trains to change the perception of current and potential riders.

## **5. SBCCOG updates**

- **General Assembly March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Mr. Lantz reminded the group to register for the General Assembly. Mr. Leger provided a brief overview of the program.

- **SEP Funding Use**. Mr. Lantz shared that the City of Inglewood has introduced a motion for the upcoming Transportation Committee that requests the SBCCOG Board of Directors reallocate Measure M Subregional Equity Program funding from the Centinela Grade Separation Project to the Inglewood Transit Connector Project to serve as a “backstop” contingency fund. The city states that this will help them compete for dollars needed to fully-fund the project. The SBCCOG Transportation Committee will handle it as a receive-and-file item this month, but will carry over any action on the request until April. The Transportation Committee agenda item is available here: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HANDOUT\\_Attachment-C-D-Transfer-of-Centinela-GSP-SEP-to-ITC-v4.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HANDOUT_Attachment-C-D-Transfer-of-Centinela-GSP-SEP-to-ITC-v4.pdf)

**6. Transportation Update Covering February 2023:** Item was received and filed.

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

## **8. Announcements / Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

*Prepared by David Leger*