

Attachment A

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group September 18, 2013 – Meeting Notes

Attendees: Rob Beste, Chair (Torrance); Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); Frank Bigdeli (Gardena); Louis Atwell & Keith Lockhart (Inglewood); Nasser Abbaszadeh & Miguel Alvarez (Lawndale); Edward Kao (Manhattan Beach); Wisam Altowaji & John Mate (Redondo Beach); Craig Bilezerian & Ted Semaan (Torrance); Yunus Ghausi (Caltrans); Andres Narvaez (LA County DWP); Fulgene Asuncion, Tim Lindholm, Isidro Panuco, & Paul Whang (Metro); Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Kamran Saber (JMDiaz); Sam Ekrami (Parsons Brinckerhoff); Anissa Voyiatzes (Psomas)

Chair Beste called IWG meeting to order at 12:11 pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of July 17 Minutes** (Attachment A) – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **Agencies & Other Reports-**

- **SBCCOG** – Program update – Steve Lantz distributed flyers for the SBCCOG’s 15th Annual General Assembly, scheduled for February 28, 2014 in Carson. Also distributed were copies of a letter that the SBCCOG will be sending to Metro, urging Metro to permanently waive the monthly maintenance fee for its ExpressLanes pilot program. Mr. Lantz also mentioned that, in its efforts to establish a significant educational resource for its citizens, the SBCCOG will lend a collection of reference books and resource materials on energy efficiency practices, water conservation, transportation options, climate action planning, and recycling measures to the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library in Torrance in the form of a one-year pilot program. Finally, Mr. Lantz announced that, over the summer, the SBCCOG was awarded a grant from Southern California Edison for its Water Leak Detection Program. This program is designed to deliver quantifiable savings for both potable water and energy at municipal buildings. Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Inglewood, and El Segundo have municipal water systems that will be included in this effort to identify and repair water leaks and implement pressure management to reduce system water losses.
- **SOUTH BAY TRAFFIC FORUM, LA County Dept. of PW** – Status – Andres Narvaez distributed the County’s September 2013 South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report. Highlights included: The County is awaiting 2 cities’ signatures on mylars for the South Bay Fiber Interconnect along Artesia Blvd, Vermont Ave, Manchester Ave, Western Ave, and Manhattan Beach Blvd; the contract term extension for the El Segundo ITS Project was fully executed on August 19; 3 of the 5 Traffic Signal Synchronization Program projects have been completed!
- **Caltrans** – Update - Yunus Ghausi, on behalf of Aziz Elattar, reported that Caltrans will be undertaking a corridor mobility study on the potential to add a 4th lane on the westbound and eastbound I-105 (between I-405 and Vermont Ave) among other corridors in the County. Some cities in LA County have supported this study. The PSR still needs to be completed.
- **Metro** –PSRA Update, Board Update, SCA 4 (55% vote initiative) – Isidro Panuco reported that Civic Resource Group, the firm hired to redesign the SBCCOG’s website, is negotiating an agreement to assist Metro in synchronizing its PSRA system with the South Bay cities’ websites. This could happen in December 2013. Fulgene Asuncion listed several items that were on Metro’s Planning and Programming Committee agenda for September 18: actions concerning the 2013 Countywide CFP, approval of the competitive grant program framework to fund a series of regional Open Streets events in response to the June 27, 2013 Board directive (Motion 72), and consideration of the authorization of the CEO to proceed with the current phase of the project development process for all second and third decade Measure R Transit projects. It was also announced that the State Senate is in recess until January 2014 when it will continue to consider SCA 4. The California Constitution conditions the imposition of a special tax by a city, county, or special district upon the approval of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the voters of the city, county, or special district voting on that tax, except that certain school entities may levy an ad valorem property tax for specified purposes with the approval of 55% of the voters within the jurisdiction of these entities. This measure would require at least 50% of the revenues to be spent for eligible Sustainable Communities Strategies, prohibit a local government from expending any revenues derived from a special transportation tax approved by 55% of the voters at any time prior to the completion of a statutorily identified capital project funded by revenues derived from another special tax of the same local government that was approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee** – Update – Ted Semaan reported that the TAC most recently discussed the soon-to-be-voted-upon 2013 Call For Projects and its appeal process, the master plan of the Union

Station Expansion, and the concept of HOV conversion to HOT lanes on the I-405 from Orange County to LAX. John Mate reported that the Streets & Freeways Sub-Committee did not meet last month.

III. **Measure R Updates – Steve Lantz**

- **Three-Month Look Ahead** (Attachment B) – Steve Lantz reminded lead agencies that the final budget request needs to be ready to go before the SBCCOG Board on November 21. If approved, it will then go before the Metro Board in December.
- **SBHP Annual Update Calendar** (Attachment C) – Steve Lantz said that lead agencies who want to delay a project or change a project's schedule need to let him know by September 20. A lead agency whose project application was not selected for the 2013 Call for Projects may still pursue project development with South Bay Measure R funds, but must request SBHP funding during the annual Metro Budget Request process and complete its preliminary work at least a year prior to the 2015 Call for Projects so that the SBCCOG may budget for the match.
- **SBHP Project Progress Reporting / Gantt chart** (Attachment D) – The City of Lawndale noticed an error on this attachment; an update they had submitted was not reflected on the Gantt chart. Please let the SBCCOG know if this occurs in the future.
- **SBHP FY 14-15 Metro Budget Request Process Update** – Steve Lantz said that this is still being finalized, as cities are following up with their city councils to identify their city council's priorities. Lan Saadatnejadi of Metro would like to include 2 Caltrans projects (\$20 million each) in the SBHP budget: 110 auxiliary lane and 182nd Street/Crenshaw Blvd interchange.
- **SBHP Technical Consultant Bench Update** – Steve Lantz announced that next week, the 23 firms that were not grandfathered into the bench contract will receive the revised standard contract. Firms that seek no contract exemptions in the revised contract will immediately begin the contract execution process. Firms that have contract exemptions are to send them to the SBCCOG, so that the SBCCOG's legal counsel can review the contract change requests.
- **New date / time for Measure R Oversight Committee - 1st Wed. 3 p.m** – Steve Lantz announced the Measure R Oversight Committee meetings will be moved from the 2nd Monday of the month at 10:30am to the 1st Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm. A list of new dates was distributed, which also included the dates for the 2014 IWG meetings.

IV. **Revised Draft South Bay Response to Potential 2014 Sales Tax Measure** (Attachment E) – Chair Beste urged lead agencies to get their project costs to Steve Lantz as soon as possible. The SBCCOG's goal is to have the priority list be as aggressive and robust as possible. Steve Lantz explained how other COGs in LA County are dealing with this request from Metro.

V. **Request to Opt Out of Metro Measure R Acceleration Policy** – Steve Lantz reiterated that the SBCCOG was not confident that it could deliver the SBHP within 5 years, and was concerned about compromising the integrity of this program. With that in mind, he and Mike Bohlke drafted a motion for the Metro Board, which was approved in June 2013. Now that a sub-region is allowed to opt out of highway project acceleration, Metro is requesting a letter officially stating the SBCCOG's intention. This letter will go before the SBCCOG Board for approval on September 26.

VI. **Harbor Gateway Transit Center Improvements / Acquisition** – Timothy Lindholm and Paul Whang from Metro gave a presentation on the status of the various improvements at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center (previously Artesia Transit Center), which is located southwest of the 91/110 junction. This 10-acre transit center, which has 4,200 boardings per day, is technically owned by Caltrans, and has not yet been relinquished to Metro; this presents an obstacle to the funding of improvements there. The scope of work and schedule for both Phase I and Phase II was explained, and images of completed improvements were displayed. A major issue is the lack of signage at and leading to the facility. An eighty foot-tall Metro sign is being built, but a location has yet to be selected. Adjacent cities who are interested in trailblazing signage should let Metro know. Caltrans is currently working with Metro to install way-finding signage along the 110, 405, and 91 freeways. Steve Lantz said that SBCCOG Executive Director, Jacki Bacharach, wanted this to be presented to the IWG so that individual design standards are discussed with each city. Stephanie Katsouleas said that "PARK AND RIDE: might give a better message and encourage drivers to explore this facility more than "TRANSIT CENTER" does.

VII. **Other Business** – Chair Beste mentioned the power outage this past weekend in Torrance and the cities that were affected. He said that the Coalition for Affordable Street Lights, of which Redondo Beach and Torrance are members, is already discussing the next SCE rate case and wishes to incorporate issues other than street lights. Chair Beste emphasized the importance of member-city participation and support.

VIII. **Adjournment - Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm until** October 16, 2013. If you'd like to include an item in the agenda, please send an e-mail to: Marcy@southbaycities.org by October 6, 2013.