

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group March 19, 2014 – Meeting Notes

Attachment A

Attendees: Rob Beste, Craig Bilezerian & Ted Semaan (Torrance); Stephanie Katsouleas (El Segundo); Frank Bigdeli (Gardena); Akbar Farokhi & Alan Leung (Hawthorne); Edward Kao, Tony Olmos & Joe Parco (Manhattan Beach); Hon. Jim Goodhart (Palos Verdes Estates); Elaine Jeng, John Mate & Wisam Altowaji (Redondo Beach); Andres Narvaez (LA County DWP); Isidro Panuco (Metro); Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Dan Freeman (Athalye Consulting); Melissa de la Pena & Liz Suh (CH2M Hill); Mel Barosay (Epic Land Solutions); Danielle Buzas (GPA Consulting); Elizabeth Ramirez (Group Delta); Mitali Gupta (HDR); Alan Clelland (Iteris); Ken Berkman (Mckissack & McKissack); Tracy Bartlett & Greg Fasiano (Nichols Consulting Engineers); Sam Ekrami & Danny Wu (PBWorld); Anissa Voyiatzes (Psomas); Marcella Low (Southern California Gas Co); Sean Fitzpatrick (WH Pacific, Inc.)

Chair Beste called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of February 19 Minutes** (Attachment A) – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **Agencies & Other Reports-**

- **SBCCOG-** Steve Lantz read a report submitted by Jacki Bacharach, containing the following updates:
 - a. Thanks to those who attended the SBCCOG's 15th Annual General Assembly on February 28, 2014. Over 300 attended; comments were positive. Suggestions are welcome.
 - b. At today's South Bay City Managers Association meeting, Ms. Bacharach will be mentioning her concern about the Measure R projects that have fallen behind schedule by 6 months or more, as well as the projects that should have had executed funding agreements with Metro by now, but do not. There is growing concern about the ability of these cities to meet their 5 year Early Action project completion commitment (5 years from signing their funding agreement with Metro). The Measure R Oversight Committee will be considering whether to withhold awarding new Measure R projects to a city if the current projects are significantly delayed.
 - c. The HERO (Home Energy Renovation Opportunity) Program has been temporarily delayed, due to processing at the LA County Treasurer and Tax Collector. It is expected to be operational in the next 30 days.
 - d. The SBCCOG will be holding elections for Metro's South Bay Service Council, which oversees the Metro transit service in the South Bay. The SBCCOG is soliciting applications from members of the community interested in transit. Council members must commit to use transit at least once per month.
 - e. On April 30, the California Public Utilities Commissioners will be meeting with local elected officials in Downtown Los Angeles. The South Bay Cities have been invited to send a delegation. If anyone on your staff or council is interested in attending, please let the SBCCOG know. In preparation for the April 30 meeting, cities are asked to submit a report on their individual city meetings with Edison regarding the reliability of their infrastructure and whether Edison is responsive to their concerns.
 - f. The Steering Committee approved the Strategic Implementation Plan with a new Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles for Board consideration this month. There will be quarterly updates to track achievement of goals. The Work Program for next year will go to the Board in April and after that, the Steering Committee agreed that Jacki Bacharach should make personal appearances at every council meeting to discuss the SBCCOG and its accomplishments.
 - g. No change is planned for SBCCOG dues for member cities. The assessment also is expected to continue at its original level. Invoices will be mailed in May.
 - h. This month the SBCCOG is hosting the second meeting for city staff that works on social media to share ideas and lessons learned.
 - i. For the first time, the SBCCOG is hosting a meeting for city staff that works on senior issues and services to discuss any gaps in service in the South Bay and whether there is some collective action that can be taken to enhance the services that we have.
 - j. Metro's ExpressLanes pilot program within the I-110 and I-10 corridors has completed its one-year pilot phase and Metro has created a Net Toll Revenue Reinvestment Grant Program available for cities within 3 miles of the ExpressLanes, using the surplus funds generated from the program. Metro hopes to bring about a sustainable countywide transportation system through a series of integrated strategies (transit operations, transportation demand management, transportation systems management, active transportation, and capital investments) with these funds. The application process, funding availability, and program guidelines will be discussed at a workshop on April 3 at the SBCCOG office. See flyer.
 - k. Move LA's Annual Transportation Conference will be held on March 28 in Downtown LA; complementary admission is available to elected officials and city staff and can be obtained by contacting Marcy Hiratzka.

- **South Bay Traffic Forum-** Andres Narvaez distributed the South Bay Forum Status Report for March 2014. Highlights included: Regarding the South Bay ITS Project, the City of Gardena will select an A/V sound wall vendor next week; Regarding the TSSP Projects, 2009 CFP awarded projects were added to the list, in addition to the 2007 projects.
- **Caltrans-** Not Present
- **Metro-** Isidro Panuco reported that Metro's Planning & Programming Committee would be discussing the following today: approval of the updated Project List for the Measure R Highway Sub-Regional Program; SBHP Project Budget & Schedule Status Report (Steve Lantz added that if this item is approved by the MTA Board on March 27, cities need to begin executing their FY2013-2104 project Funding Agreements as soon as possible); LAX Light Rail Connector; the addition of one voting and one non-voting Active Transportation member and alternate representing Bicycle and Pedestrian issues to the Metro TAC.
- **TAC and Streets & Freeway Subcommittee-** Chair Beste reported that at the last TAC meeting, there was a presentation on the Countywide Bus Rapid Transit and Street Design Improvement Study (Hawthorne Blvd is the third study on Metro's list). In May 2014, Metro will allow for 2013 CFP de-obligation appeals. Elaine Jeng said that the Streets & Freeway Subcommittee recently discussed Metro's transition of the Active Transportation Plan from the Metro Call for Projects to a SCAG/Caltrans grant process (Metro is asking that sponsors apply for ATP funding, as there will be a \$90 million shortfall for the 2015 CFP.) Cities must apply for ATP unless they can prove that their projects will experience a significant delay. Also discussed at the February SFC meeting was the MTA Countywide Bike Share program. Pasadena and Santa Monica are the only current participants.

III. **Measure R Updates** – Steve Lantz made the following reports:

- **3 Month Look Ahead (Attachment B)** – In May 2014, the SBCCOG will take project updates/requests from lead agencies, as Metro now allows semi-annual budget request updates. The SBCCOG Board will approve the requested updates (if there are any) on June 26.
- **SBHP Annual Update Calendar (Attachment C)** – The importance of executing Funding Agreements with Metro once the budget request is approved (the MTA Board will vote on March 27) was reiterated. There are currently 5 cities with current projects that have yet to execute Funding Agreements.
- **SBHP Project Progress Report (Attachment D)** – Orange color-coding has been added to the Gantt chart legend to indicate the 2013-14 projects that should have executed Funding Agreements by now. This totals up to \$91 million dollars that could be reallocated to projects that *are ready/do* have the resources to begin, as we move into the new funding cycle. The 5 cities that lack Funding Agreements are at risk of having their projects' SBHP funds deferred indefinitely if the Funding Agreements are not executed soon.
- **3/19/14 Measure R Oversight Committee Recommendations** - See Item IV below.
- **SBHP Technical Consultant Bench Update-** City/County staff that are present at this meeting are requested to stay after the meeting has ended and consultants have been excused, so that the SBCCOG can discuss the lead agencies' preference for a revised project study and technical consulting bench process.

IV. **Project Spotlight – Hawthorne Blvd Project (Cost Increase Request) – (Attachment E)** - Alan Leung and Akbar Farohki from the City of Hawthorne described Hawthorne Public Works Director, Arnold Shadbehr's, request that was made at the March Measure R Oversight Committee meeting for an additional \$2,184,467 to offset the shortfall of \$1,634,467 that the City of Hawthorne recently experienced after receiving bids for its Measure R project on Hawthorne Blvd. (MR312.44.) The original construction cost was estimated more than two years ago. Several factors (design changes, concrete and asphalt cost increases, parking loss during construction, dumping fees, labor cost increases) caused the shortfall. The shortfall occurred despite the fact that the City put its own funds into the project in addition to previously committed Measure R funds, and a MTA Call for Projects grant. Jacki Bacharach had suggested that the City's bid list be made public to the IWG, as a cautionary example, and the City agreed. Steve Lantz said that when a city discovers the need for a cost increase, the additional funds can only be awarded to the city if it can be demonstrated that the shortfall was through no fault of the city. Mr. Lantz added that the SBCCOG is establishing a formal procedure since Gardena just presented a similar request. The request for a project cost increase must go before the Measure R Oversight Committee, and if the request is approved there, then the request will go before the SBCCOG Board. A city may not begin the new work until the project's Funding Agreement with Metro has been amended.

V. **Metro Mobility Matrices (Attachment F)** – Steve Lantz said that last year, Metro asked each sub-region for a list of priority projects that might be funded by a new sales tax (Measure X.) Since then, Metro has introduced its Mobility Matrices Program, which shall provide consistent countywide corridor performance criteria to be used to identify and evaluate transportation improvements to address sub-regional needs. This program focuses on non-SBHP eligible multi-modal and sustainable strategies that can be applied to highways/freeways, arterials, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian projects. The SBCCOG will organize meetings with the cities in order for Metro to receive the cities' input. The SBCCOG applied for a grant from the

Strategic Growth Council, and if awarded, the South Bay will have even more resources to explore complete streets, active transportation, land-use, neighborhood-oriented development, climate action planning, and sustainability.

- VI. **Metro 2015 CFP/PSR Deadline and Technical Assistance-** Steve Lantz said that lead agencies that plan to request project development funding, technical assistance, and/or funding for the minimum required local match from the SBCCOG, must let the SBCCOG know of their intent by April 30. The SBCCOG will release an official schedule and procedure for this following the Measure R Oversight Committee meeting on April 2.

- VII. **Announcements** – None

- VIII. **Adjournment** – Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 12:42pm until April 16, 2014. Those who wish to include an item in the agenda must send an e-mail to: Marcy@southbaycities.org by April 8, 2014.