

**TO:** SBCCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** RALPH L. FRANKLIN, CHAIR, METRO SOUTH BAY SERVICE COUNCIL  
**SUBJECT:** MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE, 2020  
**DATE:** JUNE 12, 2020

The virtual meeting was called to order at 10:30am and roll call took place. Service Council Members in attendance included Vice Chair Don Szerlip, Ernie Crespo, Charles Deemer, Luis Duran, Elaine Jeng, Meighan Langlois, Roye Love and myself, Chairman Franklin. Dan Medina was absent.

The Minutes for the Service Council Meeting held on May 8, 2020 was unanimously approved.

Special recognition was given to Councilmembers Dan Medina, Meighan Langlois and Ralph Franklin who will no longer serve as members of the Service Council, effective, July 1, 2020. I was especially touched by all the kind and heartfelt remarks made by Metro Riders, Metro Staff, current and former Service Council Members including John Addleman and Devon Deming (she included a video and a song!) along with current SBCCOG Chairman Christian Horvath. It was really nice to know that people valued my leadership and personal commitment to the Service Council over the past thirteen (13) years.

The first presenter was Mark Dierking, Metro Community Relations Manager, who gave us an update on the **Centinela Grade Separation**. In December 2018, based on prior Grade Separation/Traffic Study and growth forecasts generated by NFL Stadium and associated other new developments since the time of the Crenshaw/LAX EIS/EIR in 2011, the Metro Board approved the Aerial Grade Separation. It is anticipated that the cost for completion of this project would range from \$185-\$241 million. The project is set to commence in 2021 with a duration of approximately twenty-three (23) months. Funds have been appropriated to complete the project through Metro and the South Bay Cities COG. SEP Allocation Equity funding is available in FY2043 per the LRTP Financial Forecast as well as other potential state and federal funding.

The next presenter was Phillip Wong, Metro Senior Transportation Planning Manager, who discussed the **I-105 Express Lanes Project**. The Project consists of a sixteen (16) mile stretch on the I-105 Freeway from Studebaker Road in Norwalk to the I-405 Freeway. The I-105 Freeway receives 200,000 to 250,000 vehicles on an average weekday with some locations as high as 300,000. The purpose of the HOV lane(s) is to improve traffic flow with trip reliability and travel times. The HOV lane(s) will maintain a minimum of 45mph headways and there is, currently, a 15% fare discount for clean air vehicles approved by the Metro Board Policy. There have been a series of public meetings, going back to March 2018, to weigh-in on three locally preferred alternatives (LPA) and the selection of alternatives have been narrowed down to two. One alternative will have a single ExpressLine each way (requires 3 or more persons to travel free) while the other alternative will have two ExpressLines (requires 2 or more persons to travel free). According to Metro Staff, they prefer the two ExpressLanes alternative which would best improve travel time and reduce delays in both the ExpressLanes and the general purpose lanes. The toll funds generated by the I-105 Freeway will be re-invested on the I-105 Freeway to increase transit service. The public can go on the Metro website, [metro.net/105ExpressLanes](http://metro.net/105ExpressLanes) for public review and comments on the draft EIR/EA (Environmental Impact Report/Environment Assessment) through Monday, July 6, 2020. The Service Council voted to submit a letter of support for a grant application for funding of the I-105 ExpressLanes Project.

The next presentation on the **COVID-19 Service and Recovery Plan Update** included several presenters including Joe Forgiarini, Metro Senior Manager - Service Planning & Development; Mark Dierking, Metro Community Relations Manager; Joyce Burrell Garcia, Metro System Safety & Security and Mark Vallianatos, Metro Executive Officer - Office of Extraordinary

Innovation. This was a lengthy presentation but it gave us a synopsis of the weekly, from late March to mid-May 2020, of the rail and bus ridership. Pre-COVID-19 in February 2020 were 1,192,940 riders and at the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, there were 756,222 riders. The ridership declined to the extent that the week of May 9-15, 2020, rail ridership was 111,433 and the bus ridership was 309,878. A series of recovery plan objectives have been put into place following the principles established by NextGen. The COVID-19 issue has resulted in Metro establishing workforce impacts, corporate safety and mask requirements. Metro also has partnered with PATH to implement Metro's COVID-19 Transit Homelessness Initiative which includes the transport of consenting homeless persons to shelters and, as of April 30, more than 1645 homeless persons had obtained lodging in interim shelters. Also, effective Monday, June 8, Metro Ambassadors will offer masks to those riders entering the train at various train platforms. In the South Bay, they are located at Rosa Parks/Willowbrook Station and Harbor Gateway. The time periods are Monday through Friday, from 6:00am to 9:00am, and from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Metro has a COVID-19 Recovery Task Force that maintains lifeline service while discouraging non-essential trips as these steps are necessary to promote public health and safety.

The Metro South Bay Service Council adopted a **Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan** for the South Bay. The work plan outlines the activities and priorities of the Service Council for the coming fiscal year.

The next matter addressed a **Virtual Public Hearing** approved by the Service Council to be held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:00pm. Normally, in June of any given year, we have a public hearing to address potential service changes however, due to the COVID-19 epidemic it has been moved to August.

**Elections for the Metro South Bay Service Council Chair and Vice Chair for FY21** were held and Don Szerlip was unanimously approved as the new Chair and Ernie Crespo as the new Vice Chair. They will be sworn in at the regularly scheduled Metro South Bay Service Council Meeting in July 2020.

Scott Greene, Metro Transportation Planning Manager and Mark Dierking, Metro Community Relations Manager, gave the **Regional Update Report**. Metro has partnered with Transit App to make riding and trip planning easier and more accurate. A rider will receive more accurate real-time bus and train arrival information. In addition, tools in the APP will assist visually impaired riders with the navigation of the system and a commitment to accessibility. On May 28, the Metro Board passed a motion to initiate the sale of promotional passes at 50% of the cost of full-price passes. The promotional passes are available for at least six (6) months from the date that regular boarding practices resume.

In addition, it was announced that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments submitted the names of nominees to the South Bay Service Council to the Metro Board. The nominees are as follows: Luis Duran (incumbent), Glenda Silva (new appointee) and David Mach (new appointee) will each serve a three (3) year term and Rochelle Mackabee (new appointee) will serve the unexpired term of Dan Medina which will end July 2021.

The Service Council Meeting concluded with Council Member comments and thanking the outgoing Service Council Members for their time and service on the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38pm and this concludes my final Service Council Report.