

## **South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – November 13, 2019**

**Attendees:** Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Ken Berkman & Lifan Xu (El Segundo); Gilbert Marquez (Carson); William Mendoza (Gardena); Alan Leung & Akbar Farokhi (Hawthorne); Marnell Gibson & Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach); Louis Atwell (Inglewood); Stephanie Katsouleas & Erik Zandvliet (Manhattan Beach); Andy Winje (Redondo Beach); David Wahba (Rolling Hills Estates); Craig Bilezerian & Steve Finton (Torrance); Godfrey Offoegbu & David Mach (Torrance Transit); Jimmy Shih, Dan Kopulsky, Reza Fateh & Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans); Maryam Adhami, Whitley Huy & John Ickis (LA County DPW); Mark Dierking (Metro) Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG); Shannon Lawrence (Balfour Beatty); Delbara Dorsey (Everfield Consulting); Jonai Johnson (MarkThomas); Steven Anderson (MARRS Corp); Monica Killen (MNS); Dough Johnson (Project Partners); Michelle Soisson (Roux Associates); Diego Cadena (WKE)

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of September 11, 2019 Meeting Notes** – Chair Ted Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. The September 11, 2019 meeting notes were approved without objection.

II. **Agency & Other Reports**

**SBCCOG:** Ms. Bacharach reported the following:

- South Bay Fiber Network: the SBCCOG Board approved the Master Services Agreement with American Dark Fiber. The first work order for the construction of the ring network will be voted on at the November Board of Directors meeting. Permits will be needed from some cities and the SBCCOG is asking for expeditious processing when possible. Following completion of the ring, laterals to the city sites will be built. The City of Inglewood has agreed to loan the SBCCOG funds to begin work on the project as Metro was unwilling to move away from a reimbursement format for the grant. The SBCCOG also received funding from the State which will be used for applications development.
- The SBCCOG will be receiving approximately \$700,000 to spend on homeless services in the South Bay from LA County. These funds must be used by June 2021 and should be used for innovative ideas.
- The SBCCOG is moving office locations in December. The SBCCOG will be temporarily located in Councilman Buscaino’s San Pedro office until the permanent new office at the Park Del Amo business park located at Crenshaw Blvd/Sepulveda Blvd in Torrance is ready. Please check agendas for meeting locations.
- General Assembly: The General Assembly will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> and will be in a “TED Talks” format throughout the morning, followed by one or two panel discussions in the afternoon. The working topic of this year’s GA is “Intersections: Mobility, Land Use, Technology, and Finance”.
- Board of Directors: Dean Logan, LA County Registrar Recorder, will be presenting on LA County’s new voting machines/processes.

**South Bay Traffic Forum, LA County DPW:** Mr. Ickis and Ms. Huy provided the South Bay Traffic Forum update. A detailed report on all projects can be viewed at:

[http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT\\_November%202019%20South%20Bay%20Traffic%20Forum%20Report.pdf](http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_November%202019%20South%20Bay%20Traffic%20Forum%20Report.pdf)

**Caltrans:** Mr. Shih noted that Caltrans updates will be provided during the Caltrans presentations later in the agenda.

**L. A. Metro Updates**

- **L.A. Metro Board:** Mr. Dierking reported that Metro will be moving forward with the contract for the Green Line extension to Torrance in January for technical and environmental work to begin in 2020. Mr. Lantz added that the NextGen Bus Plan will be holding public hearings in December and January to begin conveying their plan to improve on-time performance and better connect bus and rail. Direct impacts to service in the South Bay are still unknown.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeways Sub-Committee:** Mr. Leger reported the TAC Update on behalf of Gilbert Marquez (Carson). Metro requested TAC members’ responses to an urgent agenda item regarding FTA Section 5310 Appeals and asked them to vote on a recommendation to fully fund the City of Manhattan Beach in the amount of \$396K and award the remaining balance of \$85K to the City of Whittier. Mr. Zandvliet reported that the CTC is increasing allocations due to a \$5B balance. Draft guidelines for the next cycle of ATP grants is expected in January with adoption in March, a June 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline, September 2020 award

recommendation, and October 2020 awards announcement. Metro is also embarking on a new initiative called the “New Mobility Road Map” that will be going to the Metro Board in December and will include listening workshops to hear from residents on micro-transit options, Uber, Lyft, electric scooters/bikes, other new mobility options.

### III. Measure R SBHP

#### – Annual Performance Evaluation Tool and Summary Table; Lead Agency Progress Reviews

Mr. Leger reported on the Annual Performance Evaluation and noted thus far, milestones are being delivered in accordance with the APE baseline goals. The report can be viewed online at:

[http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT\\_October%202019%20APE%20report.pdf](http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/HANDOUT_October%202019%20APE%20report.pdf)

#### – Evaluation of Applications Submitted for Measure M & R Call for Projects

Mr. Lantz and Ms. Bacharach provided background information on this year’s call for projects as it also includes the first once-a-decade opportunity to transfer Measure R funds from the current Highway sub-fund to a new Transit sub-fund. The transfer must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Metro Board and would create the first South Bay Measure R transit capital funding program. Mr. Lantz reviewed the information in the agenda packet and noted that there were over \$1B in requests over the next decade, eclipsing the amount of funding available. If a transfer of all Measure R funds available occurred, remaining commitments and new project requests for highway projects would have to come out of Measure M MSPs.

Mr. Lantz noted two of the largest transit project requests are for the Centinela Grade Separation on the Crenshaw-LAX line (\$130M) and for partial funding of the Inglewood Connector Project (\$250M). The SBCCOG Board is considering recommending Metro accelerate the Measure M Sub-Regional Equity Program (SREP) funding to be used on the Centinela Grade Separation project. They will be considering a recommendation to the Metro Board on the potential transfer, based on actions taken/recommended by the Transportation Committee. After the potential transfer is recommended, SBCCOG staff will compile the annual Metro Budget Request which will include a funding recommendation for new transit capital projects (Measure R new transit funding) and new highway projects (Measure M).

Mr. Zandvliet asked if there are other subregions considering the same action. Mr. Lantz explained that there is a Metro legal counsel opinion that all subregions interested in a transfer must complete the transfer at the same time. However, there has been no indication from other subregions that they wish to transfer their funds. Mr. Lantz noted that most other subregions received *projects* in Measure R, not a *program* like the South Bay did.

Ms. Katsouleas asked what the funding availability is for the final decade of Measure R from 2029-39 and confirmed that the funding is not yet accounted for. Mr. Lantz confirmed that that funding is not being considered for transfer at this time and is likely in the range of \$300-\$500 million based on the 30-yr outlook for Measure R funding in the LRTP. Ms. Katsouleas also inquired on other existing transit funding programs, and why the South Bay is considering this action. Ms. Bacharach noted this is being considered because the Measure R ordinance allows for it once a decade beginning in January 2020 and that there is interest from cities in doing it. However, it is a SBCCOG policy that the SBCCOG Board must consider. The action is not being driven by SBCCOG staff.

Mr. Berkman and Ms. Katsouleas asked about next steps and actions being taken at the Transportation Committee. Ms. Bacharach expressed her hope that no action is taken at the Transportation Committee beyond recommending Metro accelerate South Bay SREP funds and use it for the Centinela Grade Separation. Mr. Lantz added that project evaluations must still take place in order to put together this cycle’s Metro Budget Request.

The IWG requested that Mr. Semaan, as IWG Chair, report their desire that the Transportation Committee take no action to allow further discussion at a December IWG meeting.

### IV. Measure M MSPs

#### – Sub-Regional Equity Program Acceleration

This item was discussed as part of the Measure R SBHP Transfer item above.

– **Local Transportation Network – Status Update**

Ms. Bacharach reported that the SBCCOG is working on a Caltrans grant and has hired Fehr and Peers to help develop potential route maps for the network. SBCCOG staff is currently meeting with city staff to review the project and what it might look like in their respective cities. SBCCOG is scheduling public workshops on the LTN. It is likely that at least one of the workshops will be in conjunction with another city event and will be a showcase of the different types of LTN vehicles. These events will provide residents opportunities to try out these vehicles.

V. **Presentations**

– **I-405 and Pacific Coast Highway (SR1) SHOPP and Related Projects Update**

Caltrans staff provided updates on the I-405 projects as well as the PCH/SR1 CAPM project. Mr. Kopulsky presented on the I-405 projects, noting that Caltrans is looking at the highway more than just a freeway project and more of a corridor plan, meaning that various other improvements will be identified to tie in local arterials with the freeway operations. The first step Caltrans has taken is to look at operational improvements that could increase the efficiency of the I-405, such as adding auxiliary lanes to help reduce weaving as cars enter/exit the freeway. Caltrans will be applying for Solutions for Congested Corridor Program funding to help implement some of the improvements. This initial work will hopefully better position them for funding approval, particularly as the I-405 is specifically mentioned in SB1 as a congested corridor. Mr. Kopulsky noted that the draft executive summary should be available in December. Caltrans and Metro are working together to have a comprehensive plan ready for the 2020 application cycles. There will be numerous opportunities for the SBCCOG and its member cities to contribute to the plan along the way to help improve the plan. More details are included in Mr. Kopulsky's presentation which is available online here: [http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION\\_I-405.pdf](http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_I-405.pdf)

Mr. Fateh presented on Caltrans' CAPM project on PCH which will resurface SR1 throughout LA County. The first project begins in Long Beach and ends in Torrance, with the second beginning in Redondo Beach and ending at the northern County line. Improvements also include new loop detectors, upgraded guard rails, signage, and striping. There will also be major ADA ramp installation/upgrades along the way too. As the project was being developed, Caltrans was approached by SBCCOG member cities on the possibility of including local improvements in the project so that all the work can be done at one time. Caltrans was amenable to the concept as long as local projects did not require environmental work beyond a categorical exemption. Metro is currently working on a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to facilitate this. The PAED is underway and should be done by the end of November. Construction is expected to take place 2022-24. Specific project budgets, schedules, and more are available in Mr. Fateh's presentation here: [http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION\\_PCH%20CAPM%20Project%20Status.pdf](http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure/PRESENTATION_PCH%20CAPM%20Project%20Status.pdf)

VI. **IWG Meeting Location Change Options**

Ms. Bacharach explained that Metro staff has started denying invoices/reimbursement requests for the room fees associated with the Bluewater Grill and requested the SBCCOG consider alternative locations in order to eliminate meeting room costs. SBCCOG staff has proposed meeting at the SBCCOG offices although a new date would be needed because IWG would conflict with an existing meeting held at the SBCCOG office at the same time.

Mr. Bilezerian expressed his opposition to changing solely because of Metro staff's "concern" and offered to work with SBCCOG staff to determine alternative options.

Mr. Atwell also proposed changing all IWG meetings to public meetings which will also help eliminate room charges.

SBCCOG expects to continue holding IWG meetings at Bluewater Grill throughout the beginning of 2020 and will make them all public meetings. During that time, SBCCOG staff will work in conjunction with IWG leadership to identify potential alternate locations besides the Bluewater Grill.

VII. **Three-Month Look Ahead** – Received and filed.

A special December meeting of the IWG will be considered dependent on SBCCOG Transportation Committee action on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

VIII. **Announcements & Adjournment**

Chair Semaan adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m. until January 8, 2020 (public meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz ([lantzsh10@gmail.com](mailto:lantzsh10@gmail.com)) by December 28, 2019.