

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Notes – December 4, 2019

Attendees: Chair Ted Semaan (Redondo Beach); Vice-Chair Ken Berkman (El Segundo); Gilbert Marquez (Carson); William Mendoza (Gardena); Lucho Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach); Stephanie Katsouleas & Prem Kumar (Manhattan Beach); Andy Winje (Redondo Beach); David Wahba (Rolling Hills Estates); Steve Finton & Art Reyes (Torrance); Jimmy Shih, Siew Mei Tan, Rafael Molina, Sarah Horn & Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans); Pat Smith (LA County DPW); Kerry Cartwright (POLA); Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz & David Leger (SBCCOG)

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of November 13, 2019 Meeting Notes** – Chair Ted Semaan called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm. The November 13, 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 Work Order #1 for construction of the fiberoptic ring; Work Order #2 is in process and would authorize construction of the first set of lateral connections. American Dark Fiber is continuing to look for alternate, less costly ways to connect sites to the ring.
- 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. Applications are due to Grace Farwell by December 16th, with awards likely in January.
- The SBCCOG is no longer in its Torrance office and is 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 19th 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”.

South Bay Traffic Forum, LA County DPW: Mr. Smith began by announcing the retirement of Jane White. Mr. Smith then 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_December%202019%20South%20Bay%20Traffic%20Forum%20report.pdf

Caltrans: Mr. Shih announced that beginning Monday, Mr. Molina will be District 7’s Traffic Operations Division Chief. The I-405/Crenshaw project is set to be listed for construction in May 2020.

L. A. Metro Updates

- **L.A. Metro Board:** No update given.
- **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeways Sub-Committee:** Mr. Marquez reported that there was no TAC meeting this month. For the Streets & Freeways Sub-Committee, Mr. Kumar reported that Metro released its 28 by ‘28 project plan; information was provided on the Cycle 10 HSIP call for projects; and a CTC update covered the Local Streets and Roads grant applications due by May 2020.

III. **Measure R SBHP**

- **Annual Performance Evaluation Tool and Summary Table**
Due to the special nature of this meeting and the early meeting date, the monthly project reports covering November progress were not yet due or submitted. Mr. Leger reported that the projects were proceeding as scheduled overall with few substantial issues thus far.

IV. **Measure R South Bay Highway / Transit Program (SBHTP) Project Selection Process**

Ms. Bacharach reported that the SBCCOG Board of Directors at the December 5th meeting approved a motion introduced by Board Member Butts for a process to develop a Transfer of up to \$560 million in Measure R funding to be made available for transit or highway projects. The next steps include the development of an open and transparent selection process to help determine what project submissions are eligible and which should receive funding. Ms. Bacharach added that she spoke with Board Member Butts over the weekend who reassured her that

his motion at Metro will make the funding available to both Highway and Transit projects.

Mr. Lantz noted that the transfer motion creates the pot of funding but does not commit funding to any projects. Metro will conduct a process that would serve as a Metro Budget Request/Call for Projects. Mr. Lantz added that it appears Metro could hold a second process at some point after the first if they choose. Any unused funding would revert back to Highway funding, but the trigger by which that happens has not yet been determined.

Mr. Semaan asked if this meant that Transit projects now receive priority funding, or if there would be equal priority given to both Highway and Transit projects. Ms. Bacharach explained that per Board Member Butts' statements to her, both would receive equal priority unless otherwise decided by the subregion.

Mr. Lantz went on to explain that once the policy is adopted by the Metro Board, all Measure R SBHP funding not currently committed in funding agreements would be eligible for Transit projects. The upcoming Metro Budget request will be broken into separate actions. SBCCOG staff will recommend the initial action, to be taken by the SBCCOG Board in February or March, consist of the costs to complete current projects (for phases not currently covered in funding agreements) and any new Measure M Highway projects. Then, upon formal availability of funding for Transit projects as determined by Metro, the SBCCOG Board will evaluate and recommend an SBHP Transfer Program of transit and highway projects. As part of the annual Metro Budget Request process, the SBCCOG needs revised cashflows for current projects.

There was then discussion on next steps that will include the development of project selection in January, as well as a recommendation on whether or not a match should be required. There was significant support for maintaining a match requirement, although exactly what the match should be was not discussed.

Mr. Semaan also added that it is important to find out what Metro departments will now be overseeing the eligibility reviews of projects, particularly the transit projects.

Upon conclusion of the discussion on project selection criteria, Ms. Bacharach recommended a joint Infrastructure and Transit Operators Working Group meeting in January to discuss the project selection criteria with the goal of developing a recommendation to go before the Transportation Committee and Board of Directors in February. Members of the IWG were supportive of that idea.

V. **Measure M MSPs**

– **Sub-Regional Equity Program (SREP) Acceleration**

The SBCCOG Board recommended Metro accelerate the entire \$130 million in the South Bay's Measure M Sub-Regional Equity Program to fund the Centinela Grade Separation project along the Crenshaw-LAX line. Unless the funds are accelerated, the SREP funds will not be available until after 2043.

– **Local Transportation Network** – No update given.

– **South Bay Fiber Network** – Update given during SBCCOG updates.

VI. **IWG Meeting Location Change Options** – No update given.

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

VIII. **Announcements & Adjournment**

Chair Semaan adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m. until January 8, 2020 (agency only meeting). To include an item on the agenda, please email Steve Lantz (lantzsh10@gmail.com) by December 28, 2019.