

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee
October 14, 2019
Meeting Notes (No Quorum)

COMMITTEE CHAIR HORVATH NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO QUORUM* BUT BEGAN INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AT 10:34 A.M. **Per SBCCOG by-laws, the cities of El Segundo and Inglewood were inactive members due to missing three consecutive Board of Directors meetings.*

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Christian Horvath, Chair (Redondo Beach) Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)

In attendance were the following non-voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Drew Boyles, El Segundo James Butts, Inglewood
Chris Pimentel, El Segundo

Non-Voting Representatives

Ted Semaan, IWG (Redondo Beach) Don Szerlip (Metro South Bay Service Council)
James Lee, Transit Operators (Torrance Transit)

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Jason Jo (Carson) Kelly Lamare (Caltrans)
Jessa Que (Torrance) Rick Clarke (Metro)
Justin Gatza (Torrance) Abdollah Ansari (Metro)
Mark MacDougal (Torrance Transit) Fanny Pan (Metro)
Karen Heit (GCCOG) Craig Hoshijima (Metro)
Tunisia Johnson (Inglewood) Annelle Albarran (Metro)
Lisa Trifiletti (Trifiletti Consulting) Fulgene Asuncion (Metro)
Jimmy Shih (Caltrans) Mark Dierking (Metro)

II. Consent Calendar

- A. August 12, 2019 Transportation Committee Minutes**
- B. October 2019 Transportation Update**

III. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group Update

No report was given.

B. Transit Operators Working Group Update

No report was given.

C. Metro Service Council – Don Szerlip

Mr. Szerlip reported that in September, there were updates on Metro's Transportation School and Title VI updates from the Office of Civil Rights. At the October meeting, there was a presentation on the Vermont Transit Corridor Project. Lastly, as of January 1st, 2020, the Service Council will be meeting at the Carson Community Center.

IV. Status of Measure M South Bay Multi-Year Sub-Regional Programs 5-Year Projects Lists

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board approved the South Bay's initial 5-year Measure M project list in September. The list of projects was largely approved by Metro staff with slight modifications. Subsequent to

SBCCOG Board action earlier in the year on the Measure R SBHP Metro Budget Request, Metro staff also added 3 projects to the Measure M list approved that were deemed ineligible for Measure R.

Ms. Bacharach noted that there should be concern about Metro staff taking action on SBCCOG Board approved lists without returning to the SBCCOG for concurrence/approval.

V. Measure R SBHP Sub-Fund Transfer

Mr. Lantz explained that the Measure R ordinance allows a transfer of funds from highway to transit (or vice versa) once every 10 years, the first time being 2020. The question before the Committee and the SBCCOG Board is whether or not they wish to recommend to the Metro Board that a transfer occur, and if so, how much funding should be transferred. The push to transfer funds is largely coming from the City of Inglewood for the Centinela Grade Separation on the Crenshaw/LAX rail line as well as the Inglewood Transit Connector Project. Local municipal bus operators are also advocating for a transfer. Funding for the Centinela Grade Separation could possibly come from the Measure M Sub-Regional Equity Program which would require Metro Board acceleration. SBCCOG staff is currently fielding project applications for both highway and potential transit projects. Metro staff will gather information on the amount of funding available over the next decade as well as approximate costs to complete projects currently underway. These figures will help determine how much funding is available to be transferred in addition to the magnitude of need.

Mayor Butts expressed his view that the reason to transfer is a regional issue. A transfer would allow flexibility for the sub-region in complying with Governor Newsom's executive order regarding a reduction in transportation greenhouse gas emissions by opening up funding sources for transit projects that could get drivers out of their cars and into transit. Mayor Butts urged the Committee to recommend a transfer upon receipt of all project applications and expressed his willingness to help make the transfer happen at the Metro Board level. Mayor Butts asked Metro Highway Department leaders to verify that there is funding available to transfer despite Metro Highway Department staff's assertion otherwise. They confirmed that there is funding available to transfer.

Chair Horvath noted that he agrees with Mayor Butts regarding the issue of flexibility. This item will be brought back again in November for discussion after the project application deadline.

VI. Caltrans SB 1 Presentation

Mr. Shih built upon the September SB 1 presentation and reviewed the I-105 and I-405 South Bay Curve projects. Caltrans is currently working with Metro on PSRs for auxiliary lanes along the I-405 South Bay Curve that could help alleviate some of the increasing congestion. The projects will likely be funded through a Measure R SBHP request but noted that Caltrans intends on applying for SB 1 Solutions for Congested Corridors funding in cycle 3. The I-105 project would increase the number of ExpressLanes along the freeway from 1 to 2 lanes.

For more detail, the full presentation is online at:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/SB1_ProgressReportPresentationOct2019js%20v2.pdf

VII. Project Updates

a. South Bay Fiber Network

Ms. Bacharach reported that the Master Services Agreement is nearing final format and will be presented to the SBCCOG Board for approval in October. Metro determined they were unable to provide a loan (for cashflow purposes) to the SBCCOG. SBCCOG Board Member Franklin has facilitated an agreement with the City of Inglewood in which the City would provide the SBCCOG a low-interest loan. Upon execution of the Master Services Agreement, the project is able to proceed.

b. SBCCOG Local Travel Network

Ms. Bacharach announced that maps are being created to lay out potential routes for connecting slow speed vehicles on a safe network throughout the South Bay. The project will not necessarily entail dedicated lanes but may consist of signage. This project is being funded through a Caltrans sustainability grant. SBCCOG staff is applying for a Caltrans planning grant for a land use component to go along with the LTN project. This grant application proposes to study the feasibility of neighborhood centers such as those described in the SBCCOG's Sustainable SouthBay Strategy. SBCCOG staff will be meeting with each city to review the project and will likely form a committee to provide comments as the project progresses.

c. I-105 ExpressLane Development

Mr. Lantz reported that there was a recent public California Transportation Commission meeting held in Los Angeles during which he made comments on the I-105 ExpressLanes project. Mr. Lantz's comments were regarding consideration of expanded bonding to include arterial improvements to make the project more successful. Mr. Lantz explained that because of the need for bonding, there will likely be 20-30 years of debt service payments, which means no net revenues for local jurisdictions to do local improvements around the I-105. If the arterial improvements are bonded for during the initial project bonding, an integrated system could be developed.

Ms. Heit stated that she believes that it's a great idea and that the Gateway Cities COG will begin discussing it as it impacts their area.

d. Vermont Corridor Study

Annelle Albarran presented an updated on the Vermont Transit Corridor Study. Ms. Albarran explained that the Measure M project anticipates a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) opening in FY28-30 with a potential conversion to rail after 2067. In February 2017, the Vermont BRT Technical Study was completed. In March 2017, the Metro Board directed staff to proceed with BRT as a near-term improvement with the caveat that an initial study of rail concepts be done to ensure that BRT doesn't preclude future rail conversion. In April 2019, the Vermont Transit Corridor Rail Conversion/Feasibility Study was completed with Board direction to advance the BRT and rail concepts into the environmental phase as well as including a feasibility study of extending the corridor to the South Bay PCH Silver Line station.

Ms. Albarran then reviewed the concepts including pros/cons of each. She subsequently reviewed next steps that include initiating procurement for environmental review of Vermont Project and South Bay Feasibility Study (Fall 2019); Begin Environmental review/public outreach (Spring 2020); and Begin work on Feasibility Study (Spring 2020). For more detail, the full presentation is available online: http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/transportation_committee/PRESENTATION_Vermont%20Transit%20Corridor.pdf

VIII. Three Month Look-Ahead

Chair Horvath announced that the November Transportation Committee meeting is being moved to November 14th at 10:30 am to allow SBCCOG and Metro staff time to compile the project requests and other relevant data as it pertains to the potential Measure R funds transfer.

IX. Announcements / Adjournment

Committee Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.