

**Transit Operators Working Group**

June 1, 2023 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dana Pynn (GTrans); James Lee, Ryan Plumb (Torrance); Scott Greene (Metro); Steve Lantz, David Leger (SBCCOG)

**1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the March 9, 2023 Meeting Notes**

The virtual meeting was called to order by Ms. Pynn at 2:04 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

**2. Transit Operator Issues and Concerns**

Mr Plumb shared that Torrance Transit will be celebrating the opening of its Transit Center on June 9<sup>th</sup>, with a larger community event being held on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Greene reported that the Regional Connector project will be opening June 16<sup>th</sup> and Metro will be providing free rides that whole weekend. Metro will be implementing a regular service change on June 25<sup>th</sup> with mostly minor schedule adjustments in the South Bay.

Ms. Pynn shared that GTrans will be doing its triennial review next week which is the main focus of the agency at the moment. This time it may be slightly different as its being held in a virtual format

**3. Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program Update**

Mr. Leger shared that the SBTIP Annual Program Update was transmitted to Metro and is expected to be acted on in September.

**4. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies**

**-Metro FY 23/24 Budget**

Mr. Lantz shared that the Metro Board will likely be approving a \$9 Billion FY23-24 budget which looks to be balanced, but FY24-25 and FY25-26 are forecast to have cumulative deficits of \$400 Million and \$1 Billion respectively. There will be minor service increases as part of the budget. Mr. Lantz elaborated that one of the core issues facing Metro's budget is that operating costs are high and continue to grow, while farebox recovery isn't growing. Farebox recovery was approximately 15% in 2022 and is forecast to be even lower in the new budget. Metro solicited federal funding to implement a free fare system, which would establish a nationwide precedent of receiving federal funds for that use.

**-C Line/K Line Operating Plan**

Mr. Lantz reported that Metro staff is expected to recommend Option 2, which best serves the South Bay. Metro has applied for TIRCP funding for additional trains as they would like to run 3-car trains. Supervisor Hahn's deputy questioned the timing of the TIRCP application as he didn't believe the 3-car trains were needed yet.

**-C Line Extension to Torrance**

Mr. Lantz shared Metro is currently going through over 1200 comments submitted on the draft EIR, with a final EIR and a locally preferred alternative route decision sometime this fall.

## **5. SBCCOG updates**

### **-Inglewood ITC Capital and Operating Fund Update**

Mr. Lantz reported that Inglewood is currently progressing into the design phase of the project and is looking for support for operating funds. The City will be contributing its own funds, expected to be approximately \$7M, with additional operating subsidies from the venue owners at the entertainment district if possible. There will also be discussions as to whether the ITC would apply for covered operator status that would allow them to access formula allocations after 2 years of operation. This could impact other transit operators.

**6. Transportation Update Covering May 2023:** Item was received and filed.

**7. Three Month Look-Ahead:** Item was received and filed.

The group decided to go dark in July and to evaluate if an August meeting is needed.

### **8. Announcements / Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

*Prepared by David Leger*