

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Infrastructure Working Group (IWG)

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

LUNCH & NETWORKING: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

AGENDA: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

IN PERSON ONLY

SBCCOG Offices (357 Van Ness Way, Suite 110, Torrance, CA 90501)

- 12:00 pm** **Call to Order – Erik Zandvliet, Chair**
- 12:01 pm** **Consent Calendar**
- **July 11, 2025 IWG Meeting Notes (Attachment A)**
 - **Transportation Report Covering August 2025 (Attachment B)**
- 12:05 pm** **Agency & Other Update Reports**
- **SBCCOG Program Update – Jacki Bacharach/David Leger, SBCCOG**
 - LAX Metro Station Tour
 - **L.A. County Public Works – South Bay Traffic Forum Update**
 - **L.A. Metro Updates**
 - **ITS Program – Ed Alegre, Metro**
 - **Metro Board Actions – David Leger, SBCCOG**
 - **2028 Games Regional Transportation Summit – David Leger, SBCCOG**
 - **I-405 Wilmington Ave to Main St Improvements Project**
 - **K Line (Formerly C Line) Extension to Torrance FEIR**
 - **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee Actions**
 - **Metro TAC Report**
 - **Opportunities to Serve: TAC delegate, Streets and Freeway alternate, Metro South Bay Service Council**
 - **Caltrans South Bay Projects Update**
- 12:20 pm** **Updates on South Bay Measure R and Measure M Projects**
- **SR-47 Interchange Project – Sarah Aziz, Project Manager**
 - **Avalon Pedestrian Bridge and Promenade Gateway Project – Noe Preciado, Project Manager**
- 1:00 pm** **Local Travel Network Consultant Bench Overview – Anne Tsai, SBCCOG**
- 1:15 pm** **3-Month Look Ahead (Attachment C)**
- **Suggest ‘Spotlight’ ideas for future meetings**
- 1:30 pm** **Announcements / Adjournment – Next meeting October 8**

To propose an item for the next meeting agenda, e-mail to DavidL@southbaycities.org no later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

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**South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) - July 9, 2025**

Attendees: Erik Zandvliet (Chair, Manhattan Beach); Andy Winje (Vice-chair, Redondo Beach); Shin Furukawa, Caleb Cho (Torrance); Russ Bryden, David Copp, Totran Radke (Rancho Palos Verdes); Andres Gonzalez (Lomita); Cheryl Ebert (El Segundo); Tony Olmos (Inglewood); Gilbert Gamboa (Manhattan Beach); Kirsten Graham (Rolling Hills Estates); DJ Torado (Hawthorne); Nabi Sidiqi (Lawndale); William Mendoza (Gardena); Ryan Liu (Redondo Beach); Aksel Palacios, Rachel Junken (LA City); Elizabeth Garcia, Alvin Ly, Marty Amundson, Matt Suska (LAPW); Marta Polovin, Deborah Murphy, Winnie Fong, Mike Bohlke, Fulgene Asuncion (Metro); Constance Turner (SCE); Charles Gale (MWD); De Mai, Alex Zhu, Brian Chandler, Eric Shimizu (DKS); Natasha DeBenon (Ghirardelli); Charu Kukreja (Jacobs); Michael Grossman (DR Consultants & Designers); Peyvand Hajian (Iteris); Joanny Leva, Cynthia Guzman (Estolano Advisors); Patrick Troy De Guzman, Michael Ip, Tony Salas, Greg Jaquez (MNS); Min Zhou (HW Lochner); Jaime Buenos Marcos (NV5); Janna Mckhann (NexTech Systems); Rawad Hani (Gentecsol); Rani Narula-Woods (Excel in Innovation); Jacki Bacharach, David Leger, Jake Romoff, Anne Tsai (SBCCOG)

- I. **June 11, 2025 IWG Meeting Notes and June Transportation Report** – Mr. Zandvliet called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. The meeting notes and report were accepted as presented.

- II. **Agency & Other Update Reports**
 - a) SBCCOG: Mr. Leger reported the following important dates:
 - SBCCOG Office Move: The SBCCOG will be relocating to 357 Van Ness Way Suite 110 (Suite 90 for meetings) starting July 1, 2025.
 - Metro South Bay Service Council: The South Bay Service Council currently has one vacancy. The SBCCOG is interested in identifying an individual to represent South Central LA.
 - LAX/Metro Transit Center Tour: The SBCCOG, in partnership with Metro, is hosting a K Line ride-along and tour of the new LAX/Metro Transit Center on July 31 at 10 am.

 - b) L.A. County Public Works – South Bay Traffic Forum Update:
Mr. Ly provided updates on South Bay traffic forum projects, which are available here: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/09181239/HANDOUT_LACounty_TSSP_July_2025.pdf

Construction on El Segundo, Rosecrans, and Normandie are anticipated to begin early next year. Two new projects, Van Ness and Albertoni, will issue RFPs for design. Mr. Zandvliet suggested adding contact information for each project manager to the report.

 - c) L.A. Metro Updates –
 - 1) ITS Program: No representative was present.
 - 2) Metro Board Actions: Mr. Leger shared that the Metro Board approved the Measure R SBHP updates in June.

 - d) Metro TAC – Mr. Leger shared the following updates:
 - a. The CTC adopted the Cycle 7 ATP MPO projects. No projects awarded were located in the South Bay.
 - b. CTC staff anticipate a regular Cycle 8 with \$500 million in funding available over 4 years.
 - c. The draft EIR of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project is open for public comments through the end of August.
 - d. Metro Micro has transitioned to a new software and operating model. Metro projects a 14% decrease in cost per trip, with each trip costing under \$25.

- e. The Metro TAC will be dark in August.
- e) Streets and Freeways Subcommittee: Mr. Zandvliet reported that the subcommittee did not meet in June.
- f) Opportunities to serve: Mr. Zandvliet invited IWG members to serve on the TAC and Streets and Freeways Subcommittee.
- g) Caltrans South Bay Projects Update: No Caltrans representatives were present. The next report will be available in September.

III. **Spotlight Presentation: Metro Urban Greening Grant Program**

Ms. Polovin presented a new competitive grant program for urban greening to advance a regional resilience network. The goals of the program are to advance equity and investment in communities impacted by extreme heat, improve transit rider customer experience, and develop an equitable and transparent streamlined application process. The grant program will be funded through Measure M (not subregional funding). Types of eligible projects may include tree canopies, transit shelters, hydration stations, cool pavement, and native plant landscaping. Metro is currently considering two conceptual grant categories: large projects (greater than \$500,000) and small infill projects (\$250-500,000). The program will be presented to Metro Board in Fall 2025 for feedback and guidance. The full presentation is available here: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/21124756/Metro-Urban-Greening-Program_South-Bay-Cities-COG.pdf

Mr. Jacquez asked what will happen after Task 8 (Fall 2025 Program Evaluation)? Ms. Polovin responded that Metro plans to engage with grassroots organizations and continue to solidify the funding source. Metro anticipates that the grant program will release a call for projects in 1.5 to 2 years.

Mr. Zandvliet asked if there is a minimum period that the lead agency must keep a project in place. Ms. Kukreja responded that Metro has been studying best practices for similar programs and is considering a 10-year period. Ms. Murphy added that input from CBOs and public agencies will be helpful to find the right balance.

Mr. Zandvliet asked if there will be differences between the grant agreement for this program and other typical Metro grant agreements. Ms. Kukreja responded that the team has been building off of existing Metro grant agreement templates. Ms. Polovin added that there will be a few key differences to be protective of the live project elements.

Mr. Zandvliet asked if there will be an opportunity to apply for projects located on private property, noting that some private developments may be required to build publicly accessible spaces. Ms. Polovin responded that this is unlikely; the grant will focus on public spaces with a transit, walking, and biking nexus.

Ms. Leyva asked the group to suggest potential projects in the South Bay in the chat and to complete a survey that will be open until next Wednesday, July 16.

IV. **Measure M Updates**

- 1) Local Allocation Program Policies (Attachment C)
Mr. Leger shared a revised version of the Local Allocation Program (LAP) policies based on

agency feedback from a previous IWG meeting. The LAP will allocate 10% of MSP funds to SBCCOG member agencies each year per a formula beginning with FY29-30 MSP funds. Ms. Tsai explained that revisions that have been made to the LAP policy document since the last IWG discussion include: the process for determining centerline road miles has moved to a footnote; language governing tracking performance of the program has been removed and overall performance of the entire Measure M program will be monitored quarterly; clarification has been added to the five-year retention limit; clarification has been added to the definition of committing funds.

Ms. Junken asked to confirm that the LAP is funded through 10% of MSP funds. Mr. Leger confirmed. Ms. Junken asked if the project selection criteria apply to both the competitive program and LAP. Mr. Leger clarified that the project selection criteria applies only to the competitive program but that the types of eligible projects apply to both the LAP and competitive program.

Mr. Furukawa noted that this version of the LAP policy document establishes an awarding subcommittee chosen by the IWG chair and commented that the language may bestow too much power to the IWG chair. Mr. Leger stated that the awarding subcommittee is intended to evaluate both competitive and LAP project applications. Mr. Winje suggested changing the title to "reviewing subcommittee." The group suggested different ways to form the reviewing subcommittee. Ms. Bacharach suggested that the subcommittee be comprised of three to five IWG members (to offer flexibility depending on volume of project applications each year), one of whom is the IWG chair.

Mr. Olmos suggested that a summary of the LAP be written at the top of the policy document.

The IWG approved the discussed changes without objection.

2) Selection Criteria Scoring Rubric (Attachment D)

Ms. Tsai walked through the revised project selection criteria document, which combines the HEOI and TSMIP assessment criteria and adds optional metric examples that agencies may use to strengthen their application. A scoring rubric has been added to the document that will be used by the reviewing subcommittee to score each project. Once the policy document is approved by the Board, SBCCOG staff will develop a scoring rubric template for the subcommittee's usage. Mr. Zandvliet clarified that individual assessment criteria have remained unchanged; only that metric examples have been added to provide agencies with tools to demonstrate the objective benefits of their projects.

Ms. Junken asked if projects will be scored according to every measure in each assessment criterion (i.e. if a project is not related to goods movement, will it lose points?). Mr. Zandvliet explained that projects will be scored against the overarching assessment criterion (i.e. how does the project support environmental compatibility, sustainability, and quality of life?).

Ms. Junken asked if the SBCCOG will create an application form after the project selection criteria are approved. Mr. Leger responded that the SBCCOG currently uses the Attachment C – Scope of Work portion of the Metro funding agreement template as the application to streamline the application process.

Mr. Winje noted that this document can continue to be revised next year.

Ms. Bacharach asked Mr. Zandvliet to attend the July Transportation Committee meeting to field questions from Board members.

MOTION by Mr. Winje, seconded by Mr. Zandvliet, to recommend approval of the project selection criteria document by the Transportation Committee. Approved without objections.

V. **3-Month Look Ahead:** Received and filed.

The IWG will not meet in August. The Metro Board VMT policy discussion will be moved to September. SCAG will make a presentation on mobility hubs at the September Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. Leger mentioned that the council of governments will be convening to discuss viewing parties and fan zone activities in relation to the Olympics.

VI. **Announcements/Adjournment:**

Mr. Zandvliet adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. Next meeting September 10th in-person and online at the NEW SBCCOG office.

*To propose an item for the next meeting agenda, please e-mail DavidL@southbaycities.org
Meeting notes prepared by Anne Tsai, Transportation Project Coordinator*



MONTHLY SBCCOG TRANSPORTATION REPORT

A summary of recent federal, state, regional and local
developments and trends in transportation

COVERING AUGUST 2025

Edited by Anne Tsai

Federal

NHTSA Issues First-Ever Demonstration Exemption to American-Built Automated Vehicles

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that the agency issued an exemption for Zoox driverless vehicles under its newly expanded Automated Vehicle Exemption Program. This is the first-ever exemption for American-built vehicles under the program.

Secretary Duffy has made safely growing America's autonomous vehicle capabilities a key part of his Innovation Agenda. In April, NHTSA expanded its Automated Vehicle Exemption Program to include domestically produced vehicles as part of its AV Framework.

Previously only foreign AVs were eligible, disadvantaging American innovators. Thanks to the change, the expanded AVEP program is successfully promoting U.S. technology and safety through simpler, faster exemption procedures that allow companies to operate noncompliant vehicles on U.S. roads.

As a condition of the exemption, Zoox will remove or cover all statements that its purpose-built vehicles comply with applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. All of the purpose-built vehicles manufactured by Zoox and operating on public roads in the United States are now covered by this exemption. NHTSA is also concurrently closing its investigation into Zoox's self-certification of its purpose-built AVs.

Source: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/nhtsa-issues-first-ever-demonstration-exemption-american-built-automated-vehicles>

State

USDOT Cancels Another \$175 Million in California High-Speed Rail Projects

The U.S. Transportation Department announced on August 26 that it is cancelling \$175 million in funding for four California high-speed rail projects, following the July cancellation of \$4 billion in federal grants. The cuts affect grade separations, overcrossings, design work, and a planned station in Madera. California has sued, arguing the funding withdrawal is illegal.

The high-speed rail project, first approved by voters in 2008 with a \$10 billion bond, has completed 70 miles of guideway and over 50 major structures. Originally planned to link San Francisco and Los Angeles by 2020 for \$33 billion, the project is now projected to cost \$89–128 billion with service starting by 2033.

This funding fight follows earlier disputes: in 2019, the Trump administration revoked \$929 million, but the state regained it in a 2021 settlement under President Biden.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/us-cancelling-another-175-million-california-high-speed-rail-projects-2025-08-26/>

Region

Milestone reached for Metro Transit Ambassadors, who are now officially part of agency's staff

Metro Transit Ambassadors are officially now Metro employees — a milestone that reflects the program's success.

The Metro Board of Directors in June approved a collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union to represent Transit Ambassador personnel effective this past July 1. The Ambassadors first day as Metro employees was Sunday, July 27.

The Board also approved 85 additional Ambassador program positions to manage the program in house and expand Ambassadors coverage on more bus lines and new stations as the Metro system expands.

With these actions, Metro has begun the process of building an in-house Metro Ambassador department, which the Metro Board approved in October 2023. Metro is beginning the process of hiring current Ambassadors who are deployed on the system through two contractors.

A 2023 survey of Metro customers found that the visible presence of Metro Ambassadors contributes to the perceptions of safety. Sixty-three percent of survey respondents who reported having seen Ambassadors stated that seeing them made them feel safer. That number increases to 66 percent among women and people earning less than \$25,000 a year, 68 percent among people Hispanic/Latinos and people under the age of 18 and 70 percent among Asian/Pacific Islanders.

As part of the Board's approval, Metro's budget for fiscal year 2026 (which runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026) was amended to include \$11.8 million for the implementation of new wages and benefits.

This collective bargaining agreement results in the addition of 388 contract positions (Teamsters) comprised of 309 Transit Ambassador program staff who are currently in the field and 79 new Transit Ambassadors to provide coverage on our expanding system.

Metro Ambassadors are an essential part of the Metro public safety ecosystem, along with transit security, law enforcement, homeless outreach and crisis intervention teams.

Ambassadors help riders navigate the Metro system, provide assistance, connect them to resources and report issues that need to be addressed.

This includes summoning emergency help for those customers in distress, as well as providing critical life-saving support. Check out these stats for the past fiscal year, which ended on July 1:

- Metro Ambassadors have helped over 645,00 people.
- They have made over 4,300 safety reports through the Transit Watch app.
- Ambassadors have also saved 76 lives through timely administration of Naloxone.

Source: <https://thesource.metro.net/milestone-reached-for-metro-transit-ambassadors-who-are-now-officially-part-of-agencys-staff/>

Trends

Fresno Eyed as Potential Site for AI Data Centers Amid High-Speed Rail Funding Struggles

The California High-Speed Rail Authority, led by CEO Ian Choudri, is exploring ways to make the long-delayed rail project financially viable after the Trump administration cut \$4 billion in federal funding. A recent update points to private-sector partnerships, with hints that AI data centers could be built in Fresno.

Data centers are attractive for revenue but controversial for their huge water and power demands – large ones can use up to 5 million gallons of water per day, straining Fresno’s already stressed water supplies. The Authority has not detailed how it would address these challenges, promising more information in its 2026 business plan.

Beyond data centers, the agency is considering cost-cutting (like eliminating the Merced stop) and monetizing land holdings through parking fees, retail development, naming rights, or land sales. The Merced–Bakersfield segment is now projected for completion in 2032, with long-term profitability hinging on future connections to Southern California and Silicon Valley.

Meanwhile, Governor Gavin Newsom and legislators are seeking \$1 billion annually from cap-and-trade funds to replace lost federal support.

Source: <https://fresnoland.org/2025/08/26/could-fresno-soon-be-home-to-thirsty-ai-data-centers/>

Updated 9/02/25

September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025
<p>8. SBCCOG Transportation Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-405/Wilmington Project C Line Extension FEIR <p>8. SBCCOG Steering Committee</p> <p>10. Infrastructure Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on Measure R/M Projects <p>11. Transit Operators Working Group</p> <p>12. Metro South Bay Service Council</p> <p>25. Metro Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Bay Measure R Transit and Measure M MSP Annual Program Update approval <p>25. SBCCOG Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSPA Presentation on Refinery Closure Impacts to the South Bay Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy Update Tentative: C Line Extension FEIR 	<p>2. Transit Operators Working Group</p> <p>8. Infrastructure Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citian CRASH Platform Demonstration <p>10. Metro South Bay Service Council</p> <p>13. SBCCOG Transportation Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCAG Presentation on Mobility Hubs Inglewood Transit Connector Funding Plan <p>13. SBCCOG Steering Committee</p> <p>23. Metro Board</p> <p>23. SBCCOG Board</p>	<p>3. SBCCOG Transportation Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carson to the Sea Project Introduction <p>3. SBCCOG Steering Committee</p> <p>6. Transit Operators Working Group</p> <p>12. Infrastructure Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olympics Games Mobility Plan Metro VMT Policy Discussion <p>14. Metro South Bay Service Council</p> <p>20. SBCCOG Board</p>	<p>4. Transit Operators Working Group</p> <p>4. Metro Board</p> <p>8. SBCCOG Transportation Committee</p> <p>8. SBCCOG Steering Committee/Board</p> <p>10. Infrastructure Working Group</p> <p>12. Metro South Bay Service Council</p>

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