

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee Meeting Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m. In Person at 357 Van Ness Way, #90, Torrance, CA 90501 & Virtually via Zoom

SBCCOG Board Members: pursuant to the end of the State's COVID-19 emergency declaration, your attendance is required to be in-person or follow the provisions of AB 2449 available [here](#).

ACCESSING THE MEETING:

For the public and guests, to receive Zoom meeting credentials in advance of the meeting, register by using the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdOyvqzstHdxcNhUBqDIFEZxtJ-UBdOcl>

OR to access the Zoom meeting, visit <https://zoom.us/join> or call (346) 248-7799 and use Meeting ID: 824 3575 0778; Passcode: 722264

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Public Comment portion of the meeting is the Public's opportunity to provide comments on non-agenda items within the jurisdiction of the SBCCOG/cities and each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Comments on agenda items may be made following the staff report on the item and each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes per item. Time allotments may be reduced due to time constraints at the discretion of the Chair. When called on, please state: Your name and residence and the organization you represent, if appropriate. To address the SBCCOG Transportation Committee on any item or a matter within the Transportation Committee's purview in writing, please provide written comments by 9 a.m. on the day of the meeting via email to davidl@southbaycities.org. All written comments submitted will become part of the official record.

AGENDA

- 10:30 a.m. Welcome / Self-Introductions**
- 10:31 a.m. Confirm Posting of the Agenda**
- 10:32 a.m. Public Comment**
- 10:35 a.m. Consent Calendar**
 - a. July 14, 2025 Transportation Committee Minutes (Attachment A) – Approve**
 - b. Transportation Report covering August 2025 (Attachment B) – Receive and File**
- 10:37 a.m. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates**
 - a. Infrastructure Working Group – Chair Eric Zandvliet, Manhattan Beach**
 - b. Transit Operators Working Group – Chair Dana Pynn, GTrans**
 - c. Metro Service Council – Chair Don Szerlip, Metro South Bay Service Council**
- 10:45 a.m. Caltrans District 7 – Agency Updates – Sergio Carvajal, Caltrans**
- 10:50 a.m. I-405 Wilmington Ave to Main St Improvements Project**
- 11:10 a.m. K Line (Formerly C Line) Extension to Torrance FEIR – Metro Staff**
- 11:30 a.m. 2028 Games Regional Transportation Summit Update – David Leger, SBCCOG**
- 11:35 a.m. Three Month Look Ahead (Attachment C) – Receive and File**
 - a. Suggest 'Spotlight' ideas for future meetings**
- 11:40 a.m. Announcements**
- 11:45 a.m. Adjournment**

Next Transportation Committee meeting – Monday, October 13, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
To propose an item for the agenda, e-mail to: DavidL@southbaycities.org

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South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee

July 14, 2025

Meeting Notes

(Held at 357 Van Ness Way Suite 90, Torrance, CA 90501)

COMMITTEE CHAIR PIMENTEL CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:40 AM.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

- Chris Pimentel (El Segundo, Chair)
- Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)
- Alex Monteiro (Hawthorne)
- Ray Jackson (Hermosa Beach)
- Anne Yoon (LA County SD2)
- Bubba Fish (LA County SD4)
- Bill Uphoff (Lomita)
- Nina Tarnay (Manhattan Beach)
- Craig Quinn (Palos Verdes Estates)
- Zein Obagi (Redondo Beach)
- Britt Huff (Rolling Hills Estates)

Non-voting members:

- Don Szerlip (Metro South Bay Service Council)

Also in attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Noel Casil (Rancho Palos Verdes) | Michael Grossman (DR Consultants & Designers) |
| Elias Sassoon (El Segundo) | David Leger (SBCCOG) |
| Elizabeth Garcia (LAPW) | Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG) |
| Peter Puglese (Inglewood) | Anne Tsai (SBCCOG) |
| Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates) | Holly Osborne (Public) |
| Kirsten Graham (Rolling Hills Estates) | Rod Kuhns (Public) |
| Brandon Araujo (Hermosa Beach) | Brianna Egan (Public) |
| Andy Sywak (Metro) | |
| Daniel Osztreicher (Trifiletti Consulting) | |

II. Public Comment

Public comment under Measure M updates.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. May 12, 2025 Transportation Committee Minutes (Attachment A)
- B. Transportation Report covering June 2025 (Attachment B)

MOTION by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Uphoff, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. Approved without objections.

IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

- A. **Infrastructure Working Group Update** – Mr. Zandvliet reported that the IWG has spent several months working on Measure M policies (agenda item VI).
- B. **Transit Operators Working Group Update** – Mr. Leger shared that the TOWG went dark in July.
- C. **Metro Service Council** – Mr. Szerlip shared that the Service Council received updates on the state of the agency, Youth Council program, and TAP payment system modernization project.

Ms. Bacharach announced a tour of the LAX/Metro Transit Center on July 31 and asked participants to RSVP

to Ms. Tsai.

V. Caltrans District 7 South Bay Projects Update – No Caltrans representative was present. The June quarterly report is available [here](#).

VI. Measure M Updates

Ms. Egan provided public comment on behalf of South Bay Forward, which is available [here](#).

Mr. Kuhns provided public comment on behalf of the South Bay Bicycle Coalition, which is available [here](#).

The City of LA provided a written public comment on the MSP project selection criteria, which is available [here](#).

A. Measure M MSP Local Allocation Program Policies (Attachment C)

The Local Allocation Program (LAP) is funded through a 10% allocation of MSP funds available each year and allocated to each SBCCOG member agency per a formula. The LAP was established to allow cities with less ability or capacity to apply for projects through the competitive process to still access MSP funds for eligible city projects. Following the approval of a new LAP by the Transportation Committee in February, the Infrastructure Working Group developed written policies to govern the usage of LAP funds. The policies will cover project eligibility, fund retention limits, transferring and pooling funds, and evaluation of the program.

Ms. Bacharach clarified that the policies create a review committee that completes eligibility review of LAP-funded projects. Mr. Zandvliet explained that all LAP project eligibility requirements remain the same as the competitive program.

Committee Member Uphoff asked when the LAP will take effect if the Board approves the policies this month. Mr. Leger responded that LAP funds will begin accruing this fall when the SBCCOG receives its fifth year rolling window of funding (FY29-30). Project applications are due to SBCCOG staff in January 2026; however, it may take a few years for a city to accumulate enough funding to initiate a project.

MOTION by Committee Member Monteiro, seconded by Committee Member Uphoff, to **RECOMMEND** Board approval of the Local Allocation Program policies to the Board. Approved without objections.

B. Objective Measures for Measure M MSP Project Selection Criteria

Committee Member Yoon asked when and how the project selection criteria were developed. Mr. Leger explained that the criteria were established in 2018 but evaluated by the IWG over the last 18 months, and a revised project selection criteria document was approved in February. The SBCCOG received feedback from the Board in February to incorporate more objective measures to evaluate the criteria. Subsequently, the IWG added supplemental language to the project selection criteria (Attachment D).

Committee Member Yoon and Committee Member Fish asked if the Transportation Committee considered highlighting safety and VMT reduction further in the criteria, as noted in LA City's public comment. Mr. Zandvliet explained that the IWG did not focus on changing the criteria through this exercise but acknowledged opportunities to modernize the criteria in the near future.

Committee Chair Pimentel felt comfortable with the criteria as is, emphasized the importance of local agencies to determine and advocate for their priorities.

Committee Member Fish asked if points can be deducted for a project being unsafe, as safety is nested in the criteria. Mr. Zandvliet explained that the points system is a 0-100 system. If the project is unsafe, it would be compared to other project submissions. Committee Member Fish countered that an unsafe project could potentially earn points in other categories (i.e. eliminates highway deficiencies). Mr. Zandvliet and Committee Chair Pimentel felt that this would be improbable, as an unsafe project would not likely be eligible.

Committee Member Yoon noted that the Equity Focused Communities metric is nested under "reduces household transportation costs" and asked if there would be no extra advantage for a project located in an

Equity Focused Community (EFC) should that project receive an equal score to a project not located in an EFC. Mr. Zandvliet explained that the selection committee would award a project in an EFC with additional points in the environmental category, but there is no separate category for equity. Equity is also accounted for through the LAP.

Mr. Zandvliet added that the selection criteria provide the selection committee with the flexibility to elevate a project that may reduce VMT for the entire subregion. Committee Member Fish said that some of the qualifications that are important feel less critical by being nested within other criteria. Mr. Zandvliet expressed support for the idea of incorporating equity and VMT within the selection criteria.

Committee Member Uphoff asked if the Transportation Committee can approve the item with a request for a follow-up update. Mr. Leger responded that once the South Bay undergoes a true competitive process, the SBCCOG will request that the review committee submit a report to the Board evaluating the process..

Committee Member Obagi asked if the Metro Board will need to approve the revised selection criteria. Mr. Leger explained that the criteria do not need to be approved by the Metro Board.

MOTION by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Tarnay, to **RECOMMEND** Board approval of the Measure M MSP Project Selection Criteria to the Board. Approved without objections.

VII. Local Travel Network Project Management & Technical Services Consultant Bench

As an increasing number of member jurisdictions implement the LTN, city staff have expressed challenges in capacity and have looked to the SBCCOG to provide support. To address this demand, the SBCCOG, in consultation with a subcommittee of city public works professionals, solicited a bench of consultants to provide project management and technical assistance to member jurisdictions for engineering, planning and design work to support the implementation of the LTN.

Ms. Tsai clarified that the SBCCOG will not hold a direct contract with the firms on the bench but that cities will form contracts with the firms. Ms. Bacharach noted that the SBCCOG and its member cities should monitor the usage of the bench.

Committee Member Monteiro asked if the projects and bench services will be funded through city general funds. Ms. Bacharach responded that the LTN is funded through Measure M MSP funds, not city funds.

Mr. Uphoff asked if there has been reluctance to use the bench. Ms. Bacharach said that the SBCCOG has implemented a bench in the past without use, but the RFQ was written in consultation with city staff to ensure maximum flexibility for cities.

Committee Member Obagi asked if hiring an outside contractor for the LTN will still create workload for city staff. Ms. Bacharach responded that city staff will still need to manage the consultants and provide input, but the bench is intended to alleviate as much workload for city staff as possible.

MOTION by Committee Member Monteiro, seconded by Committee Member Obagi, to **RECOMMEND** Board approval of the LTN Project Management and Technical Services bench of consulting firms for the corresponding disciplines that were submitted with recommendation for Fehr & Peers as the top-ranking firm. Approved without objections.

VIII. Three Month Look-Ahead

Mr. Szerlip reported that the South Bay Service Council has voted to go dark in August.

Mr. Sywak reported that the Metro Board will not convene in August.

The Transportation Committee members also discussed going dark in August.

MOTION by Committee Member Obagi, seconded by Committee Member Monteiro, to cancel the August Transportation Committee meeting. Approved without objections.

IX. Announcements

Committee Member Jackson asked if construction on the LAX People Mover is on schedule. Mr. Sywak reported that the projected opening date is still January 2026.

Ms. Egan announced that Assemblymember Muratsuchi's office will be holding the Julian Katz Memorial Bike Ride on Sunday, July 20. In addition, South Bay Forward will be hosting a Livable Communities Initiative and Parking Reform event on July 28 at St Cross Episcopal Church.

X. Adjournment: Committee Chair Pimentel adjourned the meeting at 11:44 p.m. to September 8.

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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