

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee

May 12, 2025

Meeting Notes

(Held at 2355 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 125, Torrance, CA 90501 & virtually via Zoom)

SBCCOG BOARD CHAIR TANAKA CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:37 AM.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Chris Pimentel (El Segundo, Chair, 11:17 am arrival)

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)

Zein Obagi (Redondo Beach)

Britt Huff (Rolling Hills Estates)

Non-voting members:

James Butts (online, Inglewood)

Also in attendance:

David Mach (Torrance)

Shin Furukawa (Torrance)

James Lee (Torrance)

Ryan Plumb (Torrance)

Hashaam Younis (Torrance)

Daniel Lim (Torrance)

Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)

Akbar Farokhi (Hawthorne)

Jose Ibarra (Hawthorne)

Selena Acuna (Hawthorne)

DJ Torado (Hawthorne)

Deanna Fraley (Rancho Palos Verdes)

Aksel Palacios (LA City)

Tony Olmos (Inglewood)

Sergio Carvajal (Caltrans)

Andy Sywak (Metro)

Scott Arbuckle (Metro)

Fulgene Asuncion (Metro)

Minji Kwon (Metro)

Joe Lopez (Metro)

Matthew Lazo (Metro)

Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to Mayor Butts)

Matt Suska (LAPW)

Elizabeth Garcia (LAPW)

Lisa Trifiletti (Trifiletti Consulting)

Karly Katona (Trifiletti Consulting)

De Mai (DKS)

Vikas Manocha (Econolite)

David Leger (SBCCOG)

Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)

Jake Romoff (SBCCOG)

Anne Tsai (SBCCOG)

Michael Haddadin (Public)

II. Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Consent Calendar

A. April 14, 2025 Transportation Committee Minutes (Attachment A)

B. Transportation Report covering April 2025 (Attachment B)

MOTION by Committee Member Jackson, 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 received agency reports from Metro, Caltrans, and LA County at the April meeting. The group also discussed and recommended the annual Measure M program update to the Transportation Committee.
- B. **Transit Operators Working Group Update** – Ms. Tsai shared that the TOWG met on April 3 and shared takeaways from the Metro transit leadership summit. The TOWG also recommended the FY25-26 Measure R transit investment program update for Transportation Committee approval.
- C. **Metro Service Council** – Mr. Mach shared that the service council met on May 9 and heard updates on new Title VI equity policies, new fare gates installed at A Line stations, LIFE program participation, Throne restrooms, and a quarterly service report.
- D. **Metro Updates** – Mr. Sywak announced that the LAX/Metro Transit Center station will open on Friday, June 6. Shuttles will run every 10 minutes from the station to LAX central terminals. The station Aviation/LAX will be renamed Aviation/Imperial. The D Line will be shutting down service on from May 17 to July 25 between Wilshire/Vermont and Wilshire/Western station to align the D Line Extension to La Cienega. Metro is developing its 10,000 Homes project, which will build housing directly across from the Fairview Heights station in Inglewood. The project is currently collecting public feedback.

- V. **Caltrans District 7 South Bay Projects Update** – Mr. Carvajal reported that District 7 paused on the 2026 SHOPP nominated projects due to budgetary issues but will resume from July 1 to August 15. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will meet this month. The next quarterly South Bay project update report will be published in June.

VI. Presentation: Metro FY25-26 Budget Overview

Mr. Arbuckle delivered an overview of the FY25-26 Metro budget. Metro has adopted a theme of putting people first, with a focus on equity and care-based safety. Some notable changes in the budget include a \$2.2 billion increase in the Transit Infrastructure Development category due to an increase in construction for transit capital projects, \$55 million decrease in the Highway Multimodal Development category due to projected completion of freeway projects, and a 12.7% decrease in regional allocations and pass-throughs due to a predicted decrease in sales tax revenue. The agency is also focused on improving safety and station experiences, with investment in fare gate upgrades, CCTVs, enhanced lighting, Throne restrooms, modernization and replacement of elevators and escalators, and weapons detection systems. The full presentation is available here:

<https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/09173629/PRESENTATION Metro FY26 Budget.pdf>

Committee Member Uphoff asked where Throne restrooms will be deployed. Mr. Arbuckle responded that restrooms are deployed in coordination with cities and station locations. Committee Member Fish asked if restrooms are always located on Metro property. Mr. Arbuckle said that they are not always on Metro-owned property.

Committee Member Obagi asked if Metro will consider expansion of shuttle service to major events to more transit centers, noting that the Redondo Beach Transit Center is underutilized. Mr. Arbuckle said he could connect Redondo Beach with Metro operations staff to provide a list of current services and recommend new services.

VII. Measure R and Measure M Updates

- A. **Measure R SBTIP/Measure M MSP Annual Program Updates**
Mr. Leger shared that the SBCCOG Board approved the annual Measure M and Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program update recommendations. Metro staff have begun eligibility reviews and will present the projects to the Metro Board in September.
- B. **I-405 Auxiliary Lanes Follow-Up**
Mr. Leger reminded the Transportation Committee that the committee discussed the possibility of assuming financial responsibility to fund the I-405 Artesia/I-105 auxiliary lane project in March, which faces a \$170 million shortfall. SBCCOG staff worked with Mayor Butts team to identify other funding sources but were unable to identify any at this time. SBCCOG staff recommended that the SBCCOG not take fiscal responsibility for the project but remain supportive of the project's construction.

Committee Member Monteiro asked who initiated the project originally. Mr. Leger explained that the project is

an old project originally referred to as the South Bay Curve. However, as the project has matured and prepared for construction, it is no longer competitive for grant funding in a VMT-reduction climate. Committee Member Monteiro asked why Metro does not assume fiscal responsibility for the project. Mr. Leger stated that Caltrans should be the responsible agency and that there may be an opportunity to incorporate the project into their safety program. Ms. Trifiletti added that the project was not originally initiated as a safety project and thus cannot be added to Caltrans' safety program.

Committee Member Obagi asked how the \$17.4 million programmed towards the project will be utilized if the funding is de-obligated. Mr. Leger responded that some of the programmed funds have already been spent, and the remainder will revert to the Measure R South Bay Highway Program.

Committee Chair Pimentel expressed that the SBCCOG Board agrees that the project should continue but recommended that the SBCCOG not assume responsibility for funding the project.

MOTION by Committee Member Obagi, seconded by Committee Member Monteiro, to **RECOMMEND** not assuming fiscal responsibility for the I-405 Artesia/I-105 project. Approved without objections.

C. City of Inglewood/ITC Measure R SBTIP Scope of Work Modification

Mr. Leger shared that the ITC project has been reimagined as a two-phase ITC program, and the city is requesting a scope of work modification for the Measure R funding to be allocated to Phase 1 of the project. Committee Member Butts added that the city will restructure the project to prioritize bus plazas and mobility hubs that will be ready by 2028 while preserving the opportunity to build the ITC in the future.

The ITC team shared that following the October SBCCOG Board decision, the city re-evaluated the ITC's funding sources while recognizing the continued need for a high-capacity transit system. The city acknowledged the importance of intercepting traffic on the I-405 and I-105 and activating Market Street while maintaining sensitivity to the small businesses located there. Phase 1 of the re-imagined ITC will build a network of mobility hubs around the entertainment district and include enhanced ITS, bus rotaries, rideshare pick-up/drop-off, and kiosks for retail. This project will continue to preserve the right-of-way necessary to build an automated people mover in the future. The full presentation is available here:
https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/12132424/ITC_Presentation-to-SBCCOG_051225.pdf

Committee Member Uphoff suggested SS4A as a potential opportunity to pursue funding for the project.

Committee Member Monteiro stated that the City of Hawthorne is in favor of the project but noted that the community will be heavily impacted by event traffic. Hawthorne staff Ms. Acuna and Mr. Torado proposed a scope of work with the City of Inglewood to collaborate on the mobility hub at Hawthorne Ave and 111th St to adequately address traffic impacts on the city. City staff also shared plans to apply for an SS4A implementation grant to build a dedicated bus lane on Hawthorne Blvd in preparation for the 2028 Olympics. Committee Member Butts acknowledged the city's interest in collaboration.

Committee Member Jackson asked how many local businesses will need to relocate. Ms. Trifiletti responded that 23 businesses will need to relocate and that the city is actively engaged with the affected businesses. Committee Member Jackson asked the ITC team to clarify the funding for the re-imagined project. Ms. Trifiletti explained that the budget accounts for the land acquisition and mobility hub facilities. The city is not asking for additional funding today but will redo a cost estimate in the future.

Committee Chair Pimentel asked if the ITC program has benchmarks in place. Committee Member Butts responded that the city is unable to provide benchmarks at this point. The contractor will provide benchmarks after mapping out a plan. Ms. Trifiletti added that the city will return to the Board in October with the SEP funding deadline.

Committee Chair Pimentel asked if parking will be publicly accessible or paid. Ms. Trifiletti said that paid public parking will be made available. Parking fees will help cover shuttle operational costs. During the

Olympics, an additional 400 buses will be added to the fleet.

Committee Chair Pimentel asked if the \$108 million is still envisioned as a backstop. Ms. Trifiletti confirmed that the SEP funding will still be allocated towards the backstop.

Committee Chair Pimentel asked if dedicated bus lanes will require lane widening. Ms. Trifiletti responded that the bus lanes will not require property acquisition.

Committee Member Obagi asked if linking up with other cities will require seeking separate additional funding. Committee Member Monteiro confirmed that the city is prepared to seek outside funding.

Committee Chair Pimentel requested that the ITC team send out presentations with staff report. Mr. Leger shared that an abridged presentation will be made to the Board in May and that Board members will have the opportunity to bring up additional questions then.

MOTION by Committee Member Uphoff, seconded by Committee Member Obagi, to grant a scope of work modification to the City of Inglewood. Approved without objections.

VIII. Three Month Look-Ahead

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment: Committee Chair Pimentel adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Prepared by Anne Tsai, Transportation Project Coordinator