

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Transportation Committee

February 9, 2026

Meeting Minutes

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

COMMITTEE CHAIR PIMENTEL CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:32 AM.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Christopher Pimentel (Chair, El Segundo)

Alex Monteiro (Hawthorne)

Rob Saemann (Hermosa Beach)

Anne Yoon (LA County SD2)

Bubba Fish (LA County SD4)

Bill Uphoff (Lomita)

Nina Tarnay (Manhattan Beach)

Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)

Non-voting member:

Zein Obagi (Redondo Beach, Online)

Donald Szerlip (Metro South Bay Service Council)

Also in attendance:

Mike Bohlke (Metro Deputy to Mayor Butts)

Andy Sywak (Metro)

Sona Juharyan (Caltrans)

David Mach (Torrance Transit)

Beth Overstreet (Torrance)

Aksel Palacios (Los Angeles)

Elias Sassoon (El Segundo)

Elizabeth Garcia (LA County)

Daniel Osztreicher (Trifiletti Consulting)

Vikas Manocha (Econolite)

Ray Hollar (Public)

Holly Osborne (Public)

Brandon Araujo (Public)

Christopher Truman (Public)

Eddie Vazquez (Public)

David Leger (SBCCOG)

Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)

Jake Romoff (SBCCOG)

Anne Tsai (SBCCOG)

Aaron Ruiz (SBCCOG)

II. Public Comment

Sheana Ahlqvist, Ray Hollar, and Christopher Truman made public comments concerning the C Line Extension to Torrance, which are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C55o2ypQXvM&t=42s>

III. Consent Calendar

A. December 8, 2025 Transportation Committee Minutes (Attachment A)

B. Transportation Report covering January 2026 (Attachment B)

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

IV. SBCCOG Transportation Working Group Updates

A. Infrastructure Working Group - Mr. Leger reported that the Infrastructure Working Group primarily focused on the Measure R program update.

B. Transit Operators Working Group - Mr. Leger reported that the working group was dark in February.

C. Metro Service Council - Mr. Szerlip shared that the new schedule of meeting on the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m. is now in effect. He also reported that the group discussed the June service changes which are affected by the 2026 World Cup, with Metro requiring union approval to implement these changes. Mr. Szerlip also shared that the Metro Service Council has opted out of participating in Senate Bill 707, a bill that requires eligible legislative bodies to provide an opportunity for public participation via two-way telephonic or audiovisual services. Committee Chair Pimentel asked about the reconciliation of systems with Metro borrowing buses from many different agencies and jurisdictions, referencing different charging formulations, access tap codes, and driver certifications. Mr. Szerlip noted that this would be under the control of the Olympic Committee, not Metro, and shared that the J Line is now over 50% Electric.

D. Caltrans District 7 - Agency Updates - Ms. Juharyan reported that there were no major updates, and the draft 2026 SHOPP is published online. Ms. Juharyan also shared that there was a hearing on February 5 for the southern region, with projects likely being moved forward for CTC approval in March.

V. Measure R South Bay Highway Program FY26-27 Program

Measure R is the third countywide sales tax approved for transportation programs, and it includes the South Bay Highway Program which is administered by the subregion. In 2018, SBCCOG asked Metro to transfer \$400 million of unspent money to create the South Bay Transit Investment Program.

Mr. Leger shared that SBCCOG completes one-on-one meetings with the cities annually to check in on their projects. This year, the SBCCOG received three applications for three projects, with one of them being the county's ITS improvements on Hawthorne Blvd, Normandie Ave, Manhattan Beach Blvd. In this project, the Measure R funds were a local match, with the county requesting an additional funding share of \$3.421 million to cover an increase in construction costs. The next application was for two separate approvals within the same construction project, an integrated corridor management project led by Metro on the I-105 freeway. This project has been in the planning and design phase and moving into construction and has requested an additional \$3.65 million in additional funds. Mr. Leger shared that Caltrans' requirement of an independent quality assurance (IQA) was not necessary for this project, so the agency has requested that \$150,000 programmed towards the IQA be de-obligated.

The 3 applications together lead to a recommendation for \$4.5 million in additional Measure R funding if approved. Mr. Leger shared that this would equate to \$47.8 million available for future cycles until 2039. Ms. Bacharach clarified that at the end of Measure R in 2039, Measure M will increase to a full cent sales tax.

Committee Chair Pimentel asked if the I-105 corridor project was under-scoped. Mr. Leger replied that it was initially over-scoped and that Metro has also dealt with inflation, being a 6-year-old project.

Committee Member Yoon asked if this is the first time Metro has requested an increase in the budget for the I-105 freeway project. Mr. Leger shared that Metro requested additional funding one other time to add portions of the I-405 freeway into the project.

Ms. Bacharach noted that there has not been adequate record keeping of the funding histories of projects, so she plans on implementing a process to ensure that funding histories can be traced for all Measure R and M projects.

The group discussed and agreed to request funding history information for the three Measure R projects at the February Board meeting.

MOTION by Committee Member Uphoff, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to recommend approval of the Measure R SBHP update and projects by the Board and to also request additional funding history information for the three Measure R projects. Approved without objections.

VI. Measure M Multi-Year Subregional Programs Performance Audit Update

Mr. Leger shared that for the first time Metro has initiated an audit for the Measure M program. It was noted that the audit is occurring approximately a year before the decennial transfer opportunity. SBCCOG staff recently attended a kickoff meeting with the consultant auditors. Mr. Leger clarified that the auditors will not be corresponding with any of the cities. SBCCOG staff shared recommendations with the auditors to streamline Metro's administrative process and pointed out weak points that cause delays for projects.

Committee Chair Pimentel asked for an overview of Measure M as a reminder to the group. Mr. Leger shared that Measure M was approved in 2016 and is the fourth sales tax approved for transportation in the county, which also includes subregional programs. Measure M can fund pedestrian, first-last mile, and active transportation projects.

Mr. Leger also shared that a reviewing subcommittee will evaluate Measure M applications due to an increase in applications this year and that funding that may not be available for every application submitted. In addition, Measure M funds the local allocation program which addresses geographic equity concerns by providing funding to each city.

Mr. Leger clarified that this is a performance audit, so it does not address the financial aspects of the program but will instead identify ways to expedite and smooth out the funding process.

Committee Member Yoon asked if Metro completes any audits annually. Mr. Leger replied that Metro completes financial audits every year, but this is the first performance audit of the function of the MSP programs.

Committee Member Uphoff asked if there is an opportunity at the close of this audit for a report that recommends best practices. Mr. Leger replied that he does expect a report with findings and addressing concerns from the subregions.

VII. Roundtable Discussion on Spotlight Presentations for 2026

Mr. Leger shared that the SBCCOG is working to secure a transportation Olympics-related presentation.

Committee Chair Pimentel mentioned an interest in autonomous vehicles or transportation, referencing Waymo's services.

Committee Member Uphoff referenced the Cal City's Transportation Communication Public Works Policy Committee meeting, where a Caltrans representative spoke on the road change program. This refers to the increase in electric vehicles and the loss of sales tax revenue. Mr. Szerlip mentioned the proposed mileage tax to make up the losses from electric vehicles and the lack of information on how this process would work.

VIII. Three Month Look-Ahead – Received and filed

Mr. Leger shared that Metro will be delivering an update on the 2028 Games Mobility Concept Plan and Caltrans will be giving a Vincent Thomas Bridge update in March.

IX. Announcements

Ms. Bacharach shared that there are three openings on the service council for three-year terms. Every year, three terms expire, but council members are not term limited. The deadline to apply is March 20, 2026.

Committee Member Obagi shared that there was a member of the Metro Service Council who was very disruptive at the Metro Board Meeting and engaged in foul language online towards him. He noted that at the city level, the city council has the authority to remove commissioners who they feel do not best represent the city. He then recommended that the SBCCOG create a process to remove appointees from the service council if necessary, rather than waiting for them to finish their term.

Ms. Bacharach noted that the SBCCOG may request removal of a council member but asked Metro staff if there is an existing process to have a member removed. Mr. Bohlke shared that the Metro Board has authority

over the service councils, and he will look into the disciplinary processes that exist.

Ms. Bacharach shared that SB 220 did not pass, which was the bill to reconstitute the membership of the Metro Board due to the expansion of the Board of Supervisors, but Metro decided to create a board of composition of their own. While the ad hoc committee that was being created included interest groups such as a labor representative, there was no representation from the subregions. Terry Dipple, Executive Director of the Las Virgenes-Malibu COG, was able to get himself appointed by the Metro Chair, and he will represent the subregions in the Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee.

X. Adjournment: Committee Chair Pimentel adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. to March 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared by Aaron Ruiz, CivicSpark Fellow and Anne Tsai, Transportation Project Coordinator