Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the SCAG Region

Transportation Committee

October 3, 2013
BRT in the SCAG Region

- L.A. Metro first in our region with first Metro Rapids implemented in June 2000
- OCTA started first Bravo! in June of this year
- San Bernardino County’s sbX starting in the Spring of 2014
- SANBAG and Omnitrans studying two additional corridors at this time
- Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) planning to launch its first BRT in 2015
BRT Attributes

- Dedicated bus lanes
- Traffic signal priority
- Limited-Stop service
- Pre-boarding fare payment
- Low-floor boarding
- Unique branding
- Frequent service (15 minutes or better)
- General speed increases of 15% to 25% over traditional local bus service
BRT Attributes

- BRT is **Scalable**
- Transit agencies can implement a range of BRT elements to improve bus service in an environment of scarce resources
- “Full BRT” to “BRT Light”
- Underlying Local service remains in corridor, with frequency adjusted based on travel patterns
Metro Rapid

- L.A. Metro first in U.S. to implement BRT on Wilshire and Ventura Blvds. in June 2000
- 18 additional corridors over next several years
- Big Blue Bus, Culver City Bus and Torrance Transit also operate Rapid service for overall countywide network of 26 corridors
- Not full BRT, but service includes many of the BRT attributes
- BRT and Street Design Improvement Study underway to identify a minimum of five corridors countywide for new BRT service, including peak period bus lanes and other bus speed improvement strategies.
Metro Orange Line

- Metro Orange Line is full BRT
- Completely dedicated right-of-way on old rail corridor
- Includes ticket vending machines for pre-boarding fare payment
- Recent branch to Chatsworth opened last summer
- Been very successful
Metro Orange Line
OCTA Bravo!

- Ridership has exceeded first-year projection
- BRT components: high-frequency, low-floor bus, and unique branding
- Three-year pilot-project
- Bravo! on Westminster Ave/17th St corridor may be implemented within the next five years
OCTA Bravo

Route 543

• Fullerton Transportation Center to Costa Mesa
• Harbor Blvd one of OCTA’s highest ridership corridors
• Initial travel-time savings with limited stop service
• Weekday: 10 minute peak and 15 minute off-peak frequency
• Regular $2 cash fare
sbX

- Serves E St. and Kendall Dr. corridors between North San Bernardino and Loma Linda
- 16 Center and Side-running Stations – Art reflects the culture & heritage of communities
- 4 Park & Ride lots
- CNG, 60-foot articulated 5-door buses
- 10-minute headways during peak hours; 15-minute off-peak hours
- Interior bike racks
San Bernardino County

- SANBAG and Omnitrans currently studying two additional corridors for BRT service
- Foothill Blvd. corridor from Montclair Transcenter to Fontana Metrolink Station
- Corridor currently served by two lines – study recommends extending BRT in to Highland
- Consultant briefing TC on draft recommendations today
San Bernardino County

- Line 61 corridor also under study
- Downtown Pomona to Fontana Metrolink along Holt Blvd., Archibald Ave., and 4th St./San Bernardino Ave.
- Serves Pomona Metrolink, Ontario International Airport, Ontario Mills Mall and downtown Fontana
- Includes at least 3.5 miles of bus lanes in Ontario
- Study on-going
Riverside County

- Riverside Transit Agency planning “RapidLink” service
- First would be its Line 1
- Runs between the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and Corona Transit Center along University and Magnolia Aves.
- Like Bravo!, using limited-stop and branding BRT elements initially
- Starting in 2015
Next Steps

- Staff will continue to assist in regional BRT planning efforts
- These new BRT services help implement 2012 RTP/SCS goals and recommendations
- Staff will periodically update the TC on BRT developments
Thank you.