

Transportation Committee  
of the  
Southern California Association of Governments

October 4, 2012

*Minutes*

**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Transportation Committee (TC) held its meeting at SCAG's office in downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by Chair Hon. Keith Millhouse, Ventura County. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Hon. Mike Antonovich                            | Los Angeles County    |
| Hon. Bruce Barrows, Cerritos                    | District 23           |
| Hon. Russell Betts, Desert Hot Springs          | CVAG                  |
| Hon. Stan Carroll, La Habra Heights             | District 31           |
| Hon. Mary Craton, Canyon Lake                   | RCTC                  |
| Hon. Gene Daniels, Paramount                    | District 24           |
| Hon. Steve Diels, Redondo Beach                 | SBCCOG                |
| Hon. Mario Guerra, Downey                       | GCCOG                 |
| Hon. Frank Gurulé, Cudahy                       | District 27           |
| Hon. Bert Hack, Laguna Woods                    | OCCOG                 |
| Hon. Matthew Harper, Huntington Beach           | District 64           |
| Hon. Carol Herrera, Diamond Bar                 | District 37           |
| Hon. Bill Hodge, Calexico                       | ICTC                  |
| Hon. Jim Hyatt, Calimesa                        | District 3            |
| Hon. Trish Kelley, Mission Viejo                | OCCOG                 |
| Hon. Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita               | District 67           |
| Hon. Dan Medina, Gardena                        | District 28           |
| Hon. Barbara Messina, Alhambra                  | District 34           |
| Hon. Keith Millhouse, Moorpark ( <i>Chair</i> ) | VCTC                  |
| Hon. Leroy Mills, Cypress                       | District 18           |
| Hon. Jim Morton, Lynwood                        | District 26           |
| Hon. Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica                 | District 41           |
| Hon. Micheál O'Leary, Culver City               | WCCOG                 |
| Hon. Gary Ovitt                                 | San Bernardino County |
| Hon. Bernard C. Parks, Los Angeles              | District 55           |
| Hon. Greg Pettis, Cathedral City                | District 2            |
| Hon. Frank Quintero, Glendale                   | District 42           |
| Hon. Teresa Real Sebastian, Monterey Park       | SGVCOG                |
| Hon. Ron Roberts, Temecula                      | District 5            |
| Hon. Mark Rutherford, Westlake Village          | District 44           |
| Hon. Karen Spiegel, Corona                      | WRCOG                 |
| Hon. Tim Spohn, City of Industry                | SGVCOG                |

Hon. Jeff Stone	Riverside County
Hon. Jess Talamantes, Burbank	SFVCOG
Hon. Don Voss, City of La Cañada-Flintridge	District 36
Hon. Alan Wapner, City of Ontario ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> )	SANBAG

**Members Not Present:**

Hon. Jerry Amante, Tustin	OCTA
Hon. Glen Becerra, Simi Valley	District 46
Hon. Paul Eaton, Montclair	District 9
Hon. Paul Glaab, Laguna Niguel	District 12
Hon. Jose Huizar, Los Angeles	District 61
Hon. Ryan Kelley, Brawley	ICTC
Hon. James C. Ledford	Palmdale
Hon. Steven Ly	Rosemead
Hon. Michele Martinez, Santa Ana	District 16
Hon. Brian McDonald	Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Hon. Ryan McEachron, Victorville	SANBAG
Hon. Brett Murdock, Brea	District 22
Hon. Steven Neal, Long Beach	District 29
Hon. Shawn Nelson	Orange County
Hon. Don Robinson, Banning	WRCOG
Hon. Damon Sandoval	Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Hon. David Spence, La Cañada-Flintridge	Arroyo Verdugo Cities

**Non-Voting Members, Non-Elected Officials:**

Aziz Elattar	Caltrans District 7
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**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Hon. Keith Millhouse, Ventura County, began the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Vice-Chair Hon. Alan Wapner led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

It was noted that a public comment would be received from Diane DuBois, Mayor of Lakewood, during the “Status Report on Pacific Electric Right-of-way (PE ROW)/West Santa Ana Branch Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)” item.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

It was determined that the first information item, the “Status Report on Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW)/West Santa Ana Branch Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA),” will be presented before the action item, the “Active Transportation Work Plan,” in order to better accommodate meeting participants.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **Approval Items**

1. Minutes of the July 5, 2012 Meeting
2. Minutes of the September 6, 2012 Meeting

Hon. Mary Craton, Canyon Lake, and Hon. Michael O’Leary, Culver City, stated that they were present for the July 5, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting.

Vice-Chair Hon. Alan Wapner, Ontario, indicated that several committee members had wished to participate in the September meeting via videoconference during the League of Cities conference. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so due to Brown Act requirements. Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, indicated that future policy committee meetings will be scheduled with a greater recognition of conflicting meetings.

A MOTION was made (Barrows) to approve the consent calendar as amended. The MOTION was seconded (Talamantes) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Status Report on Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW)/West Santa Ana Branch Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)

Hon. Diane DuBois, Mayor, City of Lakewood, provided a public comment, stating her concerns about the decision-making process of the PE ROW study. Mayor DuBois stated that the study was conducted over a two-and-a-half year period and that a recommendation was issued from the Steering Committee. However, the full recommendation was not presented by SCAG staff. Mayor DuBois asked the Transportation Committee to consider the problematic effects to policy making when a steering committee’s recommendation appears to be overridden.

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, stated the SCAG staff report did include the Steering Committee recommendation but noted that the staff recommendation was different from the Steering Committee’s recommendation. He noted that the staff report did not ignore the Steering Committee recommendation but that staff’s recommendation was based upon technical analysis. The staff report provided to the Transportation Committee includes the Steering Committee recommendation. Mr. Ikhata indicated that when staff returns in January 2013 to seek the Transportation Committee’s action on this matter, the staff report will explicitly state both the staff recommendation as well as the Steering Committee recommendation.

Mr. Ikhata provided an update on the PE ROW/West Santa Ana Branch Corridor Alternatives Analysis and indicated that staff would return to the Transportation Committee at its January 2013 meeting for action. Mr. Ikhata stated that the route is 20 miles in length and extends from Paramount to Santa Ana. The right-of-way is owned by both the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Orange County

Transportation Authority (OCTA). The study evaluated alignment alternatives to connect to Los Angeles' Union Station and the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center.

Mr. Ikhata stated that the study was initiated by the Transportation Committee after the adoption of the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and followed the Federal Transit Administration's alternatives analysis process. The study cost \$1.9 million and was completed after 2 ½ years. There was extensive stakeholder and public input on the process, which was coordinated with MTA, OCTA and the Orangeline Development Authority (OLDA), including 20 public input meetings. The Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee were co-chaired by MTA and OCTA.

Mr. Ikhata stated that the following alternatives were recommended: 1) No-Build, 2) Transportation System Management (TSM), 3) Bus Rapid Transit, 4) Streetcar, 5) Light Rail Transit, and, 6) Low-Speed Magnetically Levitated Train (Maglev). The cost of the alternatives range from \$10 million for TSM as the lowest-cost option to \$7.4 billion for Low-Speed Maglev as the highest-cost option. The only funding currently identified for the corridor is from MTA, which has identified \$240 million from Measure R funding. No funding is currently committed by OCTA.

Hon. Mario Guerra, Downey, asked about the origin of the cost analysis. Philip Law, SCAG staff, stated that these are the same cost estimates presented to the Transportation Committee in May 2012 and that it is based on the technical analysis done for the alternatives analysis. At this stage of the planning process, this represents the best technical estimate for the cost.

Mr. Ikhata stated that the projected daily ridership for the different alternatives ranges from 39,000 to over 80,000. The Cost Effectiveness Index (CEI) ranges from \$8.15 at the lower end for TSM to \$89.90 at the high end for Low-Speed Maglev. Mr. Ikhata stated that the CEI is calculated on a per-rider basis and that it compares the cost of constructing and operating each alternative to the ridership that it is expected to attract and serve.

Hon. Bruce Barrows, Cerritos, stated that when corridor service extension to Burbank and northward to Santa Clarita is considered, cost estimates and ridership estimates change.

Chair Hon. Keith Millhouse, Moorpark, stated that it would be useful if the SCAG staff recommendation is presented alongside the Steering Committee recommendation when the matter is brought back to the Transportation Committee in January 2013. Additionally, if Orange or Los Angeles Counties have their own recommendations, they can also be included to aid in the Committee's decision.

Mr. Ikhata stated that staff is recommending further study by MTA and OCTA for the engineering/environmental phases (e.g., EIR/EIS). Mr. Ikhata further stated that the matter will be brought back to the Transportation Committee in January 2013 for an action. It would then go to the Regional Council in February 2013 and the MTA Board in Spring 2013.

Hon. Barbara Messina, Alhambra, asked about the basic difference between the PE ROW Steering Committee recommendation and the SCAG staff recommendation. Mr. Ikhata stated that the Steering Committee recommendation includes the Low-Speed Maglev

alternative, while the SCAG staff recommendation does not, due to its cost and cost effectiveness. Additionally, the technology is now being abandoned by the Japanese, who originated it.

Chair Hon. Keith Millhouse, Moorpark, asked that staff provide the analysis behind its recommendation for the Transportation Committee's review prior to its January 2013 meeting. Mr. Ikhata indicated that staff would provide Transportation Committee members with all analysis performed as a part of this study.

### **New Member Introductions**

Chair Hon. Keith Millhouse, Moorpark, introduced two (2) new Committee members, Bill Hodge, Calexico, Imperial County Transportation Commission, and Teresa Real Sebastian, Monterey Park, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **2. Active Transportation Work Plan**

Alan Thompson, SCAG staff, presented the Active Transportation Work Plan. Mr. Thompson stated that the purpose of the presentation is to request the Committee to review, provide comment on, and authorize staff to seek input from partner stakeholders regarding the Active Transportation Work Plan. Mr. Thompson stated that the Work Plan spans four years and outlines activities leading up to the 2016 RTP/SCS. The Work Plan contains information related to budget, schedule, and deliverables. Mr. Thompson also stated that the Work Plan has been presented to the Active Transportation Subcommittee and the Sustainability Working Group, and that he is seeking the Committee's approval to seek input from partner stakeholders.

A MOTION was made (Pettis) to approve the release of the Work Plan to stakeholder groups. The MOTION was seconded (Gurule) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. Motion passed.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **3. Update on Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Express Lanes Demonstration Program**

Stephanie Wiggins, Executive Officer, Congestion Reduction Initiative, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), presented an update on the Metro ExpressLanes Demonstration Program. Ms. Wiggins began the presentation with a brief video explaining the benefits of the ExpressLanes and operation of the FasTrak<sup>®</sup> transponder. Ms. Wiggins stated that the purpose of the ExpressLanes Demonstration Program is to improve traffic flow and provide travel choices on the I-10 and I-110 freeways in Los Angeles County.

Ms. Wiggins submitted to Committee members a map of the two corridors included in the one-year pilot demonstration program. An 11-mile north-south corridor uses the I-110

Harbor Transitway between Adams Boulevard in downtown Los Angeles to SR-91, and a 14-mile east-west corridor uses the I-10 El Monte Busway beginning at Alameda Street (at Los Angeles Union Station) and ending in El Monte at I-605.

The program involves converting existing carpool (High-Occupancy Vehicle, or HOV) lanes into High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, which are commonly known as express lanes. Ms. Wiggins stated that the use of express lanes is new to Los Angeles County although it is in use in 14 other cities across the country. The demonstration program is funded primarily with a \$210 million Congestion Reduction Demonstration Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is scheduled to become operational this fall along I-110, and in early 2013 along I-10. The performance of the pilot program will be monitored and evaluated, resulting in a report submitted to the Legislature and the public regarding its performance. Ms. Wiggins also noted that the grant funded purchase of and operating subsidy for 60 clean fuel buses, an expansion of the El Monte Station, and security and lighting improvements along the Harbor Transitway.

Ms. Wiggins stated that single drivers using the (non-tolled) general purpose lanes can access the ExpressLanes by paying a toll via a FasTrak<sup>®</sup> transponder in their vehicle, and that the ExpressLanes system does not use toll booths. FasTrak<sup>®</sup> transponders used throughout California, including those in Orange County and the San Francisco Bay Area, will work on the Metro ExpressLanes. Ms. Wiggins cautioned that the key difference is that Metro's FasTrak<sup>®</sup> transponders have settings for 2-person and 3-person carpools to ensure that carpools can continue to use the corridors toll-free, consistent with occupancy standards already in place along each corridor.

Hon. Michael O'Leary, Culver City, asked how law enforcement can distinguish violators in the ExpressLanes. Ms. Wiggins stated that toll tag readers placed above the lanes reads each transponder and flashes a light based on the toll tag setting, allowing law enforcement officers to detect potential violators.

Hon. Mathew Harper, Huntington Beach, asked if Orange County Express Lanes users could use the Metro ExpressLanes without the need to purchase an additional transponder. Ms. Wiggins stated that FasTrak<sup>®</sup> users do not have to maintain two separate accounts—they can choose the account they foresee using the most, and either transponder will work in both counties. Ms. Wiggins noted that the important difference in transponders is that the Metro ExpressLanes Demonstration Program employs self-declaration transponders allowing users to travel toll-free in the ExpressLanes if they are a qualifying carpool.

Vice-Chair Hon. Alan Wapner, Ontario, asked if motorcyclists are required to put the transponder in the 3-person carpool position when using the ExpressLanes. Ms. Wiggins stated motorcyclists are asked to maintain the transponder in the 3-person position.

#### 4. I-710 (South) Corridor Project Update

Frank Quon, Executive Officer, Highway Programs, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), provided an update on the I-710 (South) Corridor Project. Mr. Quon stated that the project started primarily due to the growth of congestion on I-710 and the air quality issues in the corridor. A partnership was formed among Metro, Caltrans, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, I-5 Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the

Port of Long Beach, the Port of Los Angeles, and SCAG. Metro is currently going through the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, which is currently in the draft stage.

Mr. Quon stated that an extensive community participation framework has been used, through which Metro actively engaged the community, including technical and subject working groups, and advisory and policy committees. Further, Mr. Quon stated that the unique aspect of this project involves its goal to improve air quality and public health.

Mr. Quon reviewed the alternatives under consideration, including: 1) No-Build, 2) (5A) Widening and Modernization, 3) (6A) Widening and Modernization plus a Freight Corridor [Trucks], 4) (6B) Widening and Modernization plus a freight corridor [zero-emission vehicles], 5) (6C) Widening and modernization plus Tolloed Freight Corridor. All alternatives include various no-build improvements. Alternatives 5A, 6A, 6B, and 6C all include freeway widening, modernization of geometrics, improvement of arterials, ITS, transit improvements, Transportation Systems Management (TSM), and Transportation Demand Management (TDM).

Mr. Quon indicated that several technology studies are underway, and current efforts include seeking grant funds for a demonstration project. In addition, a 60-day comment period has been concluded, and the next step will be to identify a preferred alternative. Metro will continue to use community participation as a framework and hold workshops within communities to help community members understand the program and process. Metro anticipates having a final environmental document sometime in 2013.

Hon. Bert Hack, Laguna Woods, stated that he is supportive of the zero-emission concept but has concerns about the achievability of the cost, and the impact to the local cities during construction. Mr. Quon stated there is a utility corridor adjacent to the I-710 owned by Southern California Edison. Efforts are underway to explore using part of that right-of-way, which would reduce the impact to local communities.

Vice-Chair Hon. Alan Wapner, Ontario, asked if the zero-emission trucks are hybrid and would be able to continue to their final destinations beyond an electrified I-710 corridor. Mr. Quon stated that, while power is delivered to the truck while in the corridor, they would be able to continue on to their final destinations beyond the I-710 corridor.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hon. Keith Millhouse, stated that the Mobility 21 Summit was held on September 28, 2012 at the Disneyland Hotel. The summit brought together transportation leaders from Southern California, and SCAG's Immediate Past-President Hon. Pam O'Connor was recognized for her leadership in garnering wide public input and support during the development of the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Chair Millhouse stated that the newly formed subcommittees are beginning to meet, including four (4) which will report to the Transportation Committee and which have chairs that are members of this Committee. The Active Transportation Subcommittee is chaired by Hon. Michele Martinez, Santa Ana, the Goods Movement Subcommittee is chaired by Hon. Barbara Messina, Alhambra,

the High-Speed Rail and Transit Subcommittee is chaired by Hon. Karen Spiegel, Corona, and the Transportation Finance Subcommittee is chaired by Hon. Gary Ovitt, San Bernardino County.

**STAFF REPORT**

Ryan Kuo, SCAG staff, stated that Committee members have begun and will continue to receive meeting agendas for the four (4) subcommittees that report to the Committee.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No Future Agenda Items were provided.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hon. Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita, North Los Angeles County, stated that the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments will host a Mobility Summit at the Hyatt hotel in Santa Clarita on October 22, 2012. All interested persons are welcome.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2012 at the SCAG Los Angeles office.

  
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Ryan Kuo, Senior Regional Planner  
Transportation Planning

**Transportation Committee Attendance Report**

**2012**

Member (including Ex-Officio) Last Name, First Name	Representing	X = County Represented							X = Attended				= No Meeting		NM = New Member					
		IC	LA	OC	RC	SB	VC	Jan Joint Mtg.	Feb	Mar	Mar 21	GA April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 Amante, Jerry	Tustin, OCTA			X					NM	X										
2 Antonovich, Michael*	Los Angeles County		X						X						X		X	X		
3 Barrows, Bruce*	Cermos		X						X	X	X			X	X	X			X	
4 Becerra, Glen*	Simi Valley		X						X	X				X	X					
5 Betts, Russell	CVAG				X				X	X				X		X			X	
6 Carroll, Stan*	La Habra Heights			X					X	X	X			X		X			X	
7 Craton, Mary	Canyon Lake				X					X	X			X		X			X	
8 Daniels, Gene*	Paramount		X						X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	
9 Diels, Steve	Redondo Beach		X						X		X			X	X	X			X	
10 Eaton, Paul*	Montclair		X						X	X					X					
11 Elattar, Aziz	Caltrans - District 7																	X	X	
12 Glaab, Paul*	Laguna Niguel			X							X			X		X				
13 Guerra, Mario	Downey		X							X								X	X	
14 Gurulé, Frank*	Cudahy		X						X	X	X			X	X	X			X	
15 Hack, Bert	Laguna Woods			X					X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	
16 Harper, Matthew*	Huntington Beach			X					X		X				X			X	X	
17 Herrera, Carol*	Diamond Bar		X							X	X				X	X			X	
18 Hodge, Bill	Clexico, ICTC	X													NM				X	
19 Huizar, Jose*	Los Angeles		X																	
20 Hyatt, Jim	Calimesa				X				X	X	X			X	X	X			X	
21 Kelley, Ryan	Brawley/ICTC	X																		
22 Kelley, Trish	Mission Viejo			X					X		X			X	X	X			X	
23 Ledford, James C.	Palmdale/No. LA County		X																	
24 Ly, Steven	Rosemead																			
25 Martinez, Michele*	Santa Ana			X					X	X	X			X	X			X		
26 McDonald, Brian	Chemehuevi Indian Tribe						X													
27 McEachron, Ryan	Victorville					X			X	X										
28 McLean, Marsha*	Santa Clarita		X						X	X	X			X		X			X	
29 Medina, Dan*	Gardena		X												NM	X		X	X	
30 Messina, Barbara*	Alhambra		X						X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	
31 Millhouse, Keith* (Chair)	Moorpark						X		X	X	X			X		X		X	X	
32 Mills, Leroy*	Cypress			X					X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	
33 Morton, Jim	Lynwood																		X	
34 Murdock, Brett	Brea			X					X					X	X	X				
35 Neal, Steven*	Long Beach		X												X	X		X		
36 Nelson, Shawn*	Orange County			X					X	X	X									
37 O'Connor, Pam*	Santa Monica		X						X	X	X			X		X		X	X	
38 O'Leary, Micheál	Culver City/WCCOG		X												NM				X	
39 Ovitt, Gary*	San Bernardino County						X		X	X	X			X	X	X			X	
40 Parks, Bernard*	Los Angeles		X												X				X	
41 Pettis, Gregory*	Cathedral City				X				X	X	X								X	
42 Quintero, Frank*	Glendale		X						X	X				X					X	
43 Real Sebastian, Teresa	Monterey Park/SGVCOG															X			X	
44 Roberts, Ron*	Temecula				X				X	X	X			X		X			X	
45 Robinson, Don	Banning				X				X					X						
46 Rutherford, Mark	Westlake Village		X												X				X	
47 Sandoval, Damon	Morongo Band of Mission Indians				X															
48 Spence, David	Flintridge/Arroyo Verdugo Cities		X						X	X	X			X		X				
49 Spiegel, Karen	Corona/WRCOG				X				X	X	X			X		X			X	
50 Spohn, Tim	Industry/SGVCOG		X						X	X	X			X				X	X	
51 Stone, Jeff*	Riverside				X				X	X					X	X			X	
52 Talamantes, Jess	Burbank/SFVCOG		X						NM	X	X			X	X	X			X	
53 Voss, Don*	La Cañada Flintridge		X						X	X	X			X		X			X	
54 Wapner, Alan* (Vice-Chair)	Ontario						X		X	X	X			X	X	X			X	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>													

\* Regional Council Member