



SGVCOG Transportation Committee **Special Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 15, 2020

Time: **2:00 P.M.**

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order.
J. Fasana called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
J. Fasana led the Transportation Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call

Members Present

E. Reece; Claremont
D. Liu; Diamond Bar
J. Fasana; Duarte
S. Mateer; Glendora
C. Moss; Industry
K. Eich; La Cañada Flintridge
P. Chan; Monterey Park
R. Guerrero; Pomona
J. Pu; San Gabriel
G. Olmos; South El Monte
D. Mahmud; South Pasadena
A. Avery; Temple City
A. Wu; Walnut
M. Reyes; L.A. County District #1
D. Perry; L.A. County District #5

Members Absent

SGVCOG Staff

M. Creter, Executive Director
A. Fung, Staff

Guests

A. Ross, Los Angeles County DPW
V. Mikhail, City of Glendora
J. Nelson, City of Industry
S. Pedroza, City of Industry
R. Roque, L.A. County District #4
H. Balian, Gold Line Construction Authority
L. Buch, Gold Line Construction Authority
L. De Loza-Gutierrez, Metro
M. Echernach, Metro
D. Morrissey, Metro
T. Nguyen, Metro

D. Tucker, Metro
Y. Igawa, Foothill Transit

- 4. Public Comment
There were no public comments.
- 5. Changes to the Agenda Order
There were no changes to the Agenda Order.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 6. Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – 09/17/2020

There was a motion made to approve the 09/17/2020 Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes (M/S: E. Reece/J. Pu)

[Motion Passed]

Ayes:	Claremont, Diamond Bar, Duarte, Glendora, Industry, La Cañada Flintridge, Monterey Park, Pomona, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, Temple City, Walnut, L.A. County District #1, L.A. County District #5
Noes:	
Abstain:	
No Vote Recorded:	South El Monte
Absent:	

ACTION ITEM

- 7. Elections of FY 2020-2021 Transportation Committee Chair and Vice Chair

There was a motion made to elect San Gabriel City Councilmember, Jason Pu, as the FY 2020-2021 Transportation Committee Chair. (M/S: J. Fasana/A. Wu)

[Motion Passed]

Ayes:	Claremont, Diamond Bar, Duarte, Glendora, Industry, La Cañada Flintridge, Monterey Park, Pomona, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, Temple City, Walnut, L.A. County District #1, L.A. County District #5
Noes:	
Abstain:	
No Vote Recorded:	South El Monte
Absent:	

There was a motion made to elect Claremont City Councilmember, Ed Reece, as the FY 2020-2021 Transportation Committee Vice Chair. (M/S: J. Pu/J. Fasana)

[Motion Passed]

Ayes:	Claremont, Diamond Bar, Duarte, Glendora, Industry, La Cañada Flintridge, Monterey Park, Pomona, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, Temple City, L.A. County District #1, L.A. County District #5
Noes:	
Abstain:	
No Vote Recorded:	South El Monte, Walnut
Absent:	

PRESENTATIONS

8. Metro Fareless System Initiative
 Metro Principal Transportation Planner, Doreen Morrissey, and Metro Veteran’s Program Manager, Dennis Tucker, provided a presentation on this item. Metro recently established a task force to explore the possibility of developing a Fareless System Initiative to reduce the transportation cost burden for all residents, increase ridership growth, serve essential workers, and contribute to Southern California’s economic recovery. Over the next few months, Metro staff will survey members of the public, meet with regional partners and stakeholders, research and study costs and implementation considerations, and develop a campaign of ownership, respect, and safety. Once the Metro Fareless System Initiative Proposal is completed, it will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for consideration.

Key Questions/Discussions:

- A committee member inquired about the funding sources that can support Metro to implement a Fareless System Initiative. Mr. Tucker responded that the Task Force is currently exploring the possibility of pursuing state and federal grants and analyzing internal funding sources within Metro’s various departments. Additional public transit advertisement revenues and cost savings from not having to distribute fare cards and maintain fare collection machines can provide additional funding for the Initiative as well.
- Another committee member inquired about the process Metro plans on undertaking to determine those who can benefit from this Initiative. Ms. Morrissey responded that Metro’s intention is to develop a Fareless System Initiative that would apply to all Metro buses and rails given that 70% of Metro riders are low-income.
- A committee member inquired about the duration of the proposed Fareless System Initiative. Ms. Morrissey responded that the Metro Board of Directors will decide the duration of the Initiative. Ms. Morrissey also mentioned that a survey was recently released to solicit feedback from members of the public

and Metro received a total of more than 47,000 responses. 92% of the respondents expressed support for a Fareless System Initiative.

- A committee member recommended Metro staff to implement a sequential analysis and understand the proposed Initiative's impact on Metro's quality of service given that a fareless program can possibly overwhelm Metro's system.
- A committee member inquired about the need for external stakeholders involved in the development of the Fareless System Initiative to sign non-disclosure agreements. Mr. Tucker responded that only internal Metro staff are required to sign the non-disclosure agreements.
- A committee member inquired about how Metro would manage non-destination riders in a fareless program. Ms. Morrissey responded that the task force is currently exploring this issue further and mentioned that Kansas City's transit system experienced an increase in non-destination riders and individuals experiencing homelessness once the libraries closed to protect the public from COVID-19.
- A committee member inquired about fareless programs that have been implemented aside from programs in Denver, Austin, and Trenton. Ms. Morrissey responded that smaller cities and universities typically implement fareless transit programs. The City of Commerce currently implements a local fareless transit program since the 1960s.
- A committee member suggested Metro staff to explore a fareless program's potential impact on neighboring transit agencies such as Foothill Transit. Ms. Morrissey responded that the task force, which includes representatives from local transit agencies, is discussing the proposed program's potential impact.

9. Metro Traffic Reduction Study

Metro Senior Director of Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Tham Nguyen, provided a presentation on this item. Metro launched the Traffic Reduction Study to examine traffic reduction methods by managing roadway demand through congestion pricing and high-quality transportation options. The Study aims to explore the possibility and feasibility of implementing a traffic reduction program pilot in Los Angeles County and identify willing local partners to collaborate on a potential pilot program. At the anticipated conclusion of the Study in 2022, a traffic reduction pilot program that reduces traffic, enhances mobility, supports environmental and economic justice, and improves public health and safety will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for consideration.

10. Gold Line (L Line) Extension Construction Updates

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Chief Executive Officer, Habib Balian, provided a presentation on this item. The Construction Authority has been working to expand the Gold Line tracks to terminate at Montclair's Transcenter. Currently, the Gold Line terminates at the Azusa Pacific University/Citrus College Station in Azusa. The project segment from Glendora to Pomona is fully funded and serves as the base contract for the design-build team. The extension from Pomona to Montclair, which would add stations in Claremont and Montclair, can be completed within the design-build contract if additional funding is secured by October 2021.

Constructing the Pomona-to-Montclair Segment would require a total of \$550 million. Based on the existing progress, construction of the Glendora-to-Pomona Segment is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025. If additional funding is secured by October 2021 to include the Pomona-to-Montclair Segment within the design-build contract, the extension to Montclair can be completed by the end of 2028.

Key Questions/Discussions:

- A committee member inquired about the funding sources that can support Metro to implement a Fareless System Initiative. Mr. Tucker responded that the Task Force is currently exploring the possibility of pursuing state and federal grants and analyzing internal funding sources within Metro's various departments. Additional public transit advertisement revenues and cost savings from not having to distribute fare cards and maintain fare collection machines can provide additional funding for the Initiative as well.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) REPORT

11. Oral Report

Metro Board Director, John Fasana, reported that the draft EIR for the North Hollywood-Pasadena BRT Project will be released on October 26th for a 45-day public review.

LIAISON REPORTS

12. Metrolink Report

No reports were given for this item.

13. Gold Line Report

A written report was provided.

14. Foothill Transit Report

Foothill Transit Public Affairs Manager, Yoko Igawa, announced that Foothill Transit will continue services at 99% pre-COVID service levels starting October 18th. All express service and local lines will continue providing service except for those that primarily serve local high schools and middle schools.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

15. Oral Report

SGVCOG Executive Director, Marisa Creter, reported that the City of Baldwin Park recently launched the GoSGV Bikeshare Program on October 1, 2020. Covina is also scheduled to launch the Bikeshare Program in December 2020. Cities that are interested in launching the Bikeshare Program at no cost can contact SGVCOG staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of the Transportation Committee expressed their appreciation to Duarte City Councilmember, John Fasana, for his dedication to serve the San Gabriel Valley.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.