



Valley Voice

The official newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

November 2020



Baldwin Park Launches GoSGV Bikeshare Program

On October 1, 2020, the City of Baldwin Park welcomed the GoSGV Bikeshare Program into the city. Officials gathered at Morgan Park for a kick-off ceremony and brief bike ride to celebrate the launch of the program. The launch of the electric-assist bicycle fleet in Baldwin Park makes it the second city in the San Gabriel Valley to host the service.

The program launched in Baldwin Park with 45 bikes and 9 bike stations. With the 35 bikes that were launched in South El Monte earlier this summer, GoSGV's operating fleet now grows to 80 bikes between the two cities. Riders can unlock bikes using the Gotcha app at a cost of \$2.00 to unlock and 10 cents per minute to ride. Qualified low-income riders can pay \$1.00 to unlock and 5 cents per minute to ride. Annual subscriptions can be purchased at \$79.99 (\$5.00 for low-income riders), which provide riders with 20 minutes of free ride time per ride.

GoSGV was funded using a \$4.554 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grant awarded by the California Transportation Commission to the SGVCOG. The program will expand over the next year to 840 bikes to parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County, 15 San Gabriel Valley cities, and the campus of California Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Metro Board of Directors Approves NextGen Bus Plan

On October 22, 2020, the Metro Board of Directors voted to approve and initiate the NextGen Bus Plan, which aims to create a faster and more reliable bus network in the Metro transit system. According to Metro, buses will arrive every 5 to 10 minutes for 83% of current riders starting in December 2020. Approved changes to Metro bus services will be implemented in three phases - December 2020, June 2021, and December 2021. The majority of changes will be conducted in the June 2021 phase and details regarding these changes can be found [here](#).

Understanding that the COVID-19 Pandemic has heavily impacted Metro's ridership, Metro staff will be delivering a plan to the Metro Board of Directors later this year regarding how the agency plans to increase service while addressing funding issues related to the Pandemic. At the October 22nd Board meeting, Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti reassured that funding will be available to add enough services to meet NextGen's goals. Additional information regarding the NextGen Bus Plan can be found [here](#).



Gotcha, Inc. and Metro Offer Free or Reduced-Cost Transportation to Voters on Election Day

Gotcha and Metro Bikeshare recently partnered with the North American Bikeshare Association (NABSA) to launch an industry-wide campaign offering free or reduced-cost transportation to voters on Election Day. Shared micromobility providers will make their bikeshare services free or discounted for riders to cast their ballots.

Interested San Gabriel Valley riders can open the Gotcha app on Election Day and enter the code "VOTE2020" to ride free of charge. Riders who utilize the Metro Bikeshare System can receive free 30-minute rides from now until November 3, 2020 at 11:59pm by using the code "110320" at any Metro Bikeshare Kiosk, through the Metro Bikeshare app, or online at bikeshare.metro.net/go-vote/.



SGVCOG Expands Hygiene Services for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in San Gabriel Valley

In May 2020, the SGVCOG received \$113,320 in State COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Grant funds from the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative to expand hygiene services for individuals experiencing homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley. The funding was split evenly among 11 participating cities, including the Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Claremont, Duarte, El Monte, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, and South Pasadena. Cities used the funding to install portable restrooms, hand washing stations, and hand sanitizer dispensers. Participating cities also opened public restrooms that were intended to close, extended restroom hours, provided mobile showers, and distributed hygiene kits.

Across the region, an estimated 500 to 600 individuals per day were provided access to sanitation facilities. 19 new locations were made available with a total of 21,228 hours of additional service. Nearly 5,000 hygiene kits or bottles of hand sanitizer were distributed or are soon to be distributed. 2,000 of these hygiene kits were purchased and assembled by SGVCOG staff.

With the closure of so many public spaces due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this program mitigates COVID-19 outbreaks amongst the San Gabriel Valley homeless population by allowing individuals experiencing homelessness to use restrooms, frequently wash their hands, and access hygiene materials.

News-in-Brief



RMC Prop. 68 Call-for-Projects

Proposition 68 was passed in 2018 to authorize bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, and outdoor access program. The San Gabriel Valley and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy announced that the second round of Proposition 68 call-for-projects is open until December 16, 2020. Funds will be made available for urban recreation, habitat protection, and restoration projects. Additional information can be found [here](#).



Game of Therms: Winter is Coming

The SGVCOG is excited to partner with the Gateway Cities Energy Leader Partnership, the North Orange County Cities Energy Partnership, the Westside Cities Energy Partnership, and the Wester Riverside Council of Governments to host "Game of Therms: Winter is Coming" on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 11:00am. This webinar will provide an overview of SoCalGas' financing offerings and municipal energy efficiency projects. Interested individuals can register for the webinar [here](#).



Caltrans District 7 Freeway Clean-ups

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7 Director, John Bulinski, recently announced that cities can partner with Caltrans to host volunteer clean-up events to remove litter along freeways. Interested cities can complete and submit [this form](#) to Mr. John Acosta at john.acosta@dot.ca.gov to schedule arrangements. Questions and inquiries can be directed to Caltrans District 7 Executive Liaison, Hammer Sui, at hammer.sui@dot.ca.gov.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Please be advised that all committee meetings that are held this month will be conducted virtually over Zoom Conferencing. Livestream of each committee meeting will be available through the [SGVCOG website](#). Livestream of the Regional Housing Trust (RHT) Board Meeting can be accessed through the [RHT website](#).

Executive Committee: Monday, November 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Homelessness Committee: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Public Works TAC: Monday, November 9, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Water Committee: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Capital Projects and Construction Committee: Monday, November 16, 2020 at 12:00 PM

EENR Committee: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Transportation Committee: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Governing Board: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 4:00 PM

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