

Meeting Minutes

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (via GoToMeeting)

Attendance

Jacki Bacharach
John Bwarie
Kerry Cartwright
Mark Christoffels
Roderick Diaz
Cecilia Estolano
David Feinberg
Hank Fung
Karen Heit

Randy Johnson
Marianne Kim
Steve Lantz
Bryn Lindblad
Paul-Albert Marquez
Megan McClaire
Nancy Pfeffer
Andres Ramirez
Stephanie Ramirez

Karen Reside
Mary Reyes
Seleta Reynolds
Talin Shahbazian
Arthur Sohikian
Cynde Soto
Joss Tillard-Gates
Anne Wilson

PAC Business and Minutes

Meeting started at 1:30pm. Chair Roderick Diaz called roll and asked for motion to approve minutes. Mr. Mark Christoffels moved with Ms. Bryn Lindblad seconding; no dissents on approval of minutes.

Post-COVID Framework for Capital Projects

Metro Chief Planning Officer, Mr. Jim de la Loza, discussed project prioritization as it relates to the \$1.8 billion financial impact. Bucket 1 projects—those under construction—would not be altered, while Bucket 2 projects—essentially all other projects—would see delays of a few months. The latter bucket represents adjustments due to cash flow; there is no reprioritization of projects without an open process.

Ms. Jacki Bacharach recommended Metro consider project reprioritization since circumstances have changed significantly. Mr. de la Loza reiterated that it was too early to reprioritize projects and conceded that telecommuting and reducing demand will pay off in the long term. Mr. Kerry Cartwright inquired about the telecommute demand on ridership and vehicle volume and the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) status. Mr. de la Loza stated that WSAB is still in the draft environmental phase. Metro is also doing some quantitative research on telecommuting and its impacts. Mr. Cartwright inquired on Measure R funding and its effect on COG funding. Mr. de la Loza did not see that as an issue. Ms. Karen Heit asked about “reimagining major projects.” Mr. de la Loza that the request was a recommendation, not a directive.

Ms. Nancy Pfeffer asked for further information on the countywide telecommuting plan. Mr. de la Loza stated that Metro's Recovery Task Force is handling the research. More information will follow as the task force moves forward. Ms. Pfeffer followed up to ask about the financial outlook based on new information that the pandemic is taking longer than expected to recover fully. Mr. de la Loza stated that the financials are a moving target, but that Planning was working closely with Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Bryn Lindblad inquired on the budget shortfall and how it is affecting capital or if the impact is more on operations Mr. de la Loza stated that the shortfall is “hitting across the board”, though he acknowledges that operational funding is generally more difficult to pin down.

Although noted on the agenda, Ms. KeAndra Cylear Dodds and Ms. Kalieh Honish did not have anything further to add to this topic. Chair Diaz asked if there was a desire for the PAC to take a stance on this topic with no members speaking up.

Subregional Equity Fund Process

Ms. Laurie Lombardi and Mr. Craig Hoshijima, both of Countywide Planning, presented on the Subregional Equity Fund Process [\[link\]](#). Next steps for the Subregional Equity Program (SEP) guidelines are to create a timeline and solicit input from subregions with a goal of presenting to the Board by the end of the year.

Ms. Cecilia Estolano asked if this process means that Metro will not attempt anything prior adoption of any guidelines to which Mr. Hoshijima confirmed Metro will refrain from any action prior with the exception of the ongoing Crenshaw/LAX project. Ms. Pfeffer commented that she would like to make all PAC members aware of this process and recommended that participants in this process be able to initiate funds instead of only having the power to approve something that Metro puts forth. Ms. Pfeffer also asked whether the upcoming bonding includes subregional equity funding. Mr. Hoshijima stated that the subregional governing body must approve any funding. Comments on the topic closed with Mss. Estolano, Pfeffer, and Wilson stating that they wish this topic would come to their subregions when considering outreach.

Joint Development Policy Update

Mr. Wells Lawson and Ms. Marie Sullivan presented on the Joint Development Policy update [\[link\]](#).

Ms. Pfeffer started the discussion by stating that affordability is key and that she is concerned with the policy's "maximum units" definition. Ms. Karen Reside agreed with this and would like to see intergenerational housing, as well as green spaces, included. Ms. Estolano commended Metro on their goals in this policy but was not sure if it was much different than existing goals. Ms. Estolano also suggested that Metro should "name it" with respect to climate goals, alternative power, and the like. Ms. Bryn Lindblad suggested leveraging data from TOC corridor baseline assessments to see what communities feel they are missing. Ms. Pfeffer chimed in again to ask if value capture is a tool Joint Development would use. Mr. Lawson stated that this is something it is considering, and Mr. de la Loza agreed. Chair Diaz asked if this policy and its goals would apply to non-Metro-owned property; Ms. Sullivan answered that this policy would look at it with a narrow definition but would be considering a wider application and specifically called out the match program that would fund innovative housing pilots. Further, the transit oriented communities (TOC) implementation plan would take a look at the broader impact that Metro may have.

Announcements/Information Packet

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. Kalieh Honish acknowledged the PAC for their comments on the LRTP. She also highlighted the LRTP Update outreach process. The LRTP is scheduled for adoption at the Metro Board later this month. Metro staff also will request initiation of the Short Range Transportation Plan.

Approach to EO-19-19

Ms. Patricia Chen presented on Metro's approach to Executive Order 19-19 [\[link\]](#). Ms. Pfeffer thanked Ms. Chen for her and Metro's efforts and noted that clean trucks should be considered in Metro's future plans. Ms. Chen then elaborated on infill development and equity as it relates to EO-19-19. Ms.

Lindblad added that Metro consider offering studies on the 15-minute city, Walk Score, etc. in order to improve areas of low income; a discussion of balancing improvements and displacement ensued.

Equity Update

Ms. KeAndra Cyler Dodds provided an update on the Equity and Race Program [\[link\]](#) and stated that she would like to hold an equity committee meeting, to include the PAC. Ms. Pfeffer thanked Ms. Cylear Dodds for all the creative work she is doing; Mr. Arthur Sohikian concurred. Ms. Stephanie Ramirez thanked Ms. Cylear Dodds and asked if there would be more staff assigned to this department, to which Ms. Cylear Dodds said her department is working on it.

NextGen Update

Ms. Jody Litvak provided an update on the NextGen meeting schedule for the Service Councils. The board item is tentatively scheduled for the October Board meeting. [\[link\]](#).

BRT Vision & Principles Study

Mr. Paul Backstrom noted that the previous project manager, Lauren Cencic, left the agency in August. An update on the BRT study [\[link\]](#) was provided. Mr. Roderick Diaz inquired on the study's timeline and milestones. The board item will go to the Board in October.

Recovery Task Force

Ms. Honish, speaking on behalf of the Recovery Task Force, offered PAC members the opportunity for a briefing on Task Force recommendations. A community meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1 at 6pm.

Public Comments

Ms. Reside noted Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) input on providing a discussion on what it would take to get ridership back on transit. She noted Ms. Cylear Dodds hard work on this matter. For those interested in learning more, information is available at longbeachgraypanthers.org.

Ms. Lindblad asked Mr. Backstrom to what extent the BRT V&P Study is taking into account vulnerable road users, citing the removal of a bike only lane in the NoHo to Pasadena BRT project in favor of a shared bus/bike lane. Mr. Backstrom responded that the BRT V&P Study suggests taking a look as best practices with respect to lane widths, crossings, etc. To put a finer point on it, shared bus/bike lanes are a treatment available in the Study.

Meeting concluded at 3:26pm.