

Meeting Minutes

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 12, 2019, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Attendance

Jacki Bacharach	David Feinberg	Karen Reside
Jasneet Bains	Winnie Fong (for Westside Cities COG)	Mary Reyes
John Bwarie	Randy Johnson	Paul Albert Marquez
Kerry Cartwright	Marianne Kim	Arthur Sohikian
Mark Christoffels	Nancy Pfeffer	Cynde Soto
Martha D’Andrea	Andres Ramirez	Ann Wilson
Roderick Diaz	Stephanie Ramirez	
Terry Dipple		

PAC Business and Minutes

Mr. Roderick Diaz started the meeting with roll call at 2:06pm; no callers noted on the phone. Ms. Jacki Bacharach requested that PAC representatives be noted in the minutes if they call in via the phone number. Mr. Diaz then asked for approval of the September 10, 2019 meeting minutes, Mr. Mark Christoffels moved with Mr. Arthur Sohikian seconding motion for approval.

Ms. Kalieh Honish added that we can reserve comments for later in case anyone would like to address the upcoming PAC agenda items.

Active Transportation 2% Update

Mr. Jacob Lieb gave an update on the Active Transportation 2% Update. Mr. Lieb’s team looked to approve the first cycle of the MAT program and authorize a project selection process in the January Board cycle. Mr. Lieb also elaborated on the possibility of PAC members being used as evaluators for the selection process, similar to the State ATP. Answering some of the PAC members questions, Mr. Lieb stated that his team is still looking to finalize some of the details related to whether an evaluator can abstain from certain projects, if there is a conflict; if there is a cap on which an agency can apply; and how the process is addressing geographic diversity.

Mr. John Bwarie then asked if there was any action the PAC needed to take to endorse this process, noting that this is a unique body. Ms. Ramirez agreed that this is a unique opportunity, to which Ms. Honish stated this was best served by reaching consensus within the PAC whether it be offline, via emails, etc. Considering lack of consensus at this meeting, Mr. Lieb was open to circling back with the PAC or an interested portion of the PAC with any pending details. Ms. Nancy Pfeffer suggested a conference call, for which there seemed to be general appetite amongst PAC members; Metro staff to schedule. Ms. Karen Reside offered the opinion that diversity with respect to geography, as well as size, need to be considered, having been an evaluator for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

SCAG RTP/SCS Draft

Ms. Honish announced that the SCAG RTP/SCS Draft is out for public comment and that staff would email the link to the PAC for review outside of the meeting. Mr. Steve Lantz asked whether Metro would provide comments to SCAG. Ms. Honish stated that Metro would likely have a few comments but do not have any issues at this time.

NextGen Bus Study Update

Mr. Robert Calix presented on the [NextGen Bus Study Update](#). Answering Mr. Terry Dipple's question, Mr. Calix stated that 'minimize discontinued segments' means combining various short segments to provide a more seamless trip. Mr. Dipple then questioned the statistic that 84% of the county has taken public transit at least once a year. Discussion was had in understanding this statistic—whether it is Metro bus and rail only, or any form of self-declared transit—and methodology. Ms. Tham Nguyen, of the Office of Extraordinary Innovation (OEI), added that the data gathered was via an online survey supplemented by focus groups. This research counted all trips, not just commute trips.

Other comments from the PAC included how Metro is working with municipal agencies and paratransit services. Mr. Calix stated that on both fronts, Metro is working with these agencies to address these important issues in order to match their services with NextGen. Addressing Mr. Lantz's question, Mr. Calix clarified that the NextGen rollout would consist of three phases.

Traffic Reduction Study

Ms. Tham Nguyen presented on the [Traffic Reduction Study](#). Notably, Ms. Nguyen invited PAC members to participate in the Traffic Reduction Study working group. In response to Mr. Diaz's question, OEI is willing to accept any and all participants, with no limits on available seats. Mr. Kerry Cartwright asked if the scope of work (SOW) was available, to which Ms. Nguyen stated the initial SOW is available with the final to be published. In answering Ms. Ann Wilson's question, Ms. Nguyen clarified that 'equity' in the context of the Traffic Reduction Study means socio-economic equity.

Mr. Dipple then gave the opinion that the "Traffic Reduction Study" is not honest when it should be referred to its old name, the "Congestion Pricing Feasibility Study". Ms. Nguyen stated that the name change stemmed from wanting to focus on the outcome rather than the method, hence "traffic reduction". Ms. Nguyen wrapped up her update by asking PAC to express their concerns regarding scope, participants, etc. Mr. Cartwright closed comments on this topic by stating that PAC is the right forum for further discussion regarding this study.

LRTP Update

Mr. Craig Hoshijima presented on the [Short Range Financial Forecast](#) (SRFF). Ms. Bacharach asked what other rail line refurbishments, besides the A Line (Blue), are within the SRFF, to which Mr. Hoshijima stated that that is an evolving issue and is to be rolled over from the transit asset management database to a capital plan in the works; the funding is present but exact programs are to be defined. Clarifying Ms. Martha D'Andrea, Mr. Hoshijima stated that there is not extra revenue to fund a call for projects. Mr. Sohikian asked if there are any highway projects in the SRFF expenditure plan and Mr. Hoshijima

explained that since they are not as expensive as transit projects they do not appear on the list sometimes, as in this case; there are many highway projects being funded despite them not appearing on this list. Mr. Lantz closed out comments by asking how much electrification of the bus fleet would set Metro back but Mr. Hoshijima stated that this is something Metro cannot accurately estimate currently.

10-Year Review of Measure R Funds

Mr. Hoshijima remained to present on the [10-Year Review of Measure R Funds](#). Ms. Bacharach asked for clarification on the I-405 South Bay project being included in Twenty-Eight by '28 and Mr. Hoshijima explained that Metro's priorities have shifted since it is not one of the four pillar projects. Ms. Wilson asked about an I-5 project that was overfunded and the excess funds of which would come back to the subregion. While Mr. Hoshijima was not familiar with this project, Mr. Isidro Panuco, Metro Highways Programs, would look into the matter and get back to her. Mr. Dipple asked about the presentation of this item to the Board—which Metro staff plans to take along with any comments—as well as cost overruns—which Metro is currently thinking about how to address. Mr. Sohikian closed out comments by asking about updates to the Board and Mr. Hoshijima stated that they anticipate monthly updates with the first one coming in January 2020.

Ms. Honish gave a quick update on the LRTP, stating that a February 2020 release of the draft LRTP is anticipated, with a deeper dive at the next PAC meeting on March 10, 2020.

Work Plan

Mr. Diaz stated discussion of the work plan by explaining that some PAC members would like to hear about the goods movement strategic plan, subregional equity funds, and Measure M guidelines. Ms. Pfeffer added that she would like to hear about the federal SAFE rule and how it affects conformity, as well as Metro's response to the governor's executive order N-19-19.

Mr. Bwarie suggested that actions be tied to any item brought to PAC in order to allow for engagement within a diverse body. Several PAC members agreed with Mr. Bwarie. Ms. Honish responded that while the PAC is not a body that is typically tasked with actions it is within the rights of PAC to advise. Further conversation ensued regarding the future role of PAC and Mr. Diaz responded that the officers would meet in an effort to provide more structure.

PAC Announcements

Mr. Diaz and Ms. Pfeffer reminded the PAC that vacancies and upcoming meetings have been provided in the handouts to members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.