

Meeting Minutes

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Attendance

Jackie Bacharach

Mark Christoffels

Martha D'Andrea

Roderick Diaz

Terry Dipple (phone)

David Feinberg

Randy Johnson

Eli Akira Kaufman

Marianne Kim

David Kriske

Bryn Lindblad

Paul-Albert Marquez

Megan McClaire (phone)

Nancy Pfeffer

Andres Ramirez (phone)

Stephanie Ramirez

Mary Reyes

Talin Shahbazian

Nancy Silva (phone)

Arthur Sohikian

Joss Tillard-Gates

PAC Business and Minutes

Mr. Roderick Diaz kicked off the meeting at 1:35pm with callers on the phone noted above. Chair Diaz then sought to approve the December minutes when Ms. Jackie Bacharach asked about the PAC officer meeting to discuss future PAC structure, mentioned in the December meeting. Before continuing further, Ms. Bacharach motioned to approve with Mr. Mark Christoffels seconding; unanimous approval of minutes.

Chair Diaz then elaborated on the PAC officers' meeting with Metro staff in order to create a forum for interactive feedback. Future meetings will strive to have three to four topics that would be conducive to a deeper discussion. The result of this will be to create a basis for PAC to take a position, if so desired, and brief general announcements would follow the more substantive topics; the agenda for this meeting reflects the changes in meeting format.

Equity

Ms. KeAndra Cylear Dodds, Executive Officer, Equity and Race, presented on the [Metro's Equity Program](#). Ms. Mary Reyes asked whether this equity definition is gender focused, to which Ms. Cylear Dodds stated this is still being discussed internally but that this would fall under demographics, which are captured; there is a focus on disparities in general. Chair Diaz agreed that sex and gender should be called out more. Ms. Bryn Lindblad commented that she likes the work presented but wonders from where the goals are coming. Ms. Cylear Dodds stated that the scope of the project is broad in order to incorporate various sources for solutions, it is not prescriptive. Ms. Nancy Pfeffer agreed with Ms. Lindblad and then asked if this project would look at the system as a whole. Ms. Cylear Dodds confirmed that Metro is looking beyond the project level and then asked if Metro should look at expanding these definitions at the sake of clarity and concision. Ms. Pfeffer agreed that a sprawling definition is a problem but that metrics should be tied to the project, in general. Other comments on the topic related to defining the outcome and process, how CBOs might be able to leverage this definition, unintended consequences, and helping the most vulnerable.

Ms. Bacharach then asked about a potential schedule. Ms. Cylear Dodds stated that they are developing a workplan by refining the definition as soon as possible, then passing it along internally to seek input; there are key short and long term goal assessments. Comments on this topic closed with Ms. Marianne Kim stating PAC would be able to take an action once the process is more defined.

Traffic Reduction Study

Ms. Tham Nguyen presented on the [Traffic Reduction Study](#). Comments began with Ms. Bacharach disagreeing with the new title as well as the study missing the “trip not taken”. Ms. Kim also disliked the title, adding that education is a big enough problem without the name change. Ms. Nguyen then responded that there is a lot of education necessary and that this is a supply and demand issue. Mr. Christoffels commented that the study, as it stands, focuses on time-based goals but cost-based strategies; there need to be more strategies that chip away at time. Mr. David Kriskie agreed that time is most important to commuters and that messaging needs to be honed more before roll-out. Many other comments discussed the concern that a congestion pricing scheme is regressive, that this study should not recommend road widening, and that there is a problem with the framing of the study.

Mr. Terry Dipple expressed concern that the name change was disingenuous and made a motion that the name be changed back to its original title, the “Congestion Pricing Study”, to more accurately reflect the study; Ms. Bacharach seconded. Much discussion ensued but, ultimately, the PAC could not unanimously decide on a course of action. Ms. Ramirez commented that while much of the discussion was related to semantics and that the focus should be on the process. Failing unanimity, Ms. Kim agreed to draft a letter that would express some of the concerns felt by the PAC, with Ms. Bacharach and Mr. Dipple to review.

BRT Vision & Principles Study

Ms. Lauren Cencic presented on the [BRT Vision & Principles Study](#). Ms. Bacharach commented that BRT looked like a good alternative to LRT, as might be the case with a BRT to Blue Line. Ms. Pfeffer asked how the study might identify what Metro can afford to do; Ms. Cencic responded that Metro is working on a prioritized list. Ms. Lindblad asked about including the study into capital investment budgets; Ms. Cencic stated that her study as well as NextGen was looking into this. The last comment came from Ms. Ramirez asking about political feasibility, and Ms. Cencic explained this was something that was rolled into the community engagement portion of the project.

General Announcements

Mr. Jacob Lieb once again asked for MAT program evaluators. Ms. Kalieh Honish announced the Measure R Decennial Review, and potential amendments. Mr. Mark Yamarone discussed the ongoing TOC Implementation Plan on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Carvajal. Mr. Yamarone then briefly discussed the NextGen web tool. More details on the [announcements can be found here](#).

PAC Business Follow-Up

Ms. Honish briefly discussed PAC vacancies and asked for nominations to the available positions, which are posted on the PAC site. Chair Diaz then brought up the meeting frequency going forward and the possibility of it switching to bi-monthly meetings, if so desired. Consensus was that quarterly meetings were appropriate with only a few dissents; meetings will continue quarterly with understanding that adjustments can be made later.

Chair Diaz then brought up the [twelve month look ahead](#) while also mentioning that PAC members are more than welcome to bring up topics of interest as they see fit. Ms. Bacharach then brought up the potential for a Metro budget briefing at the June meeting. Metro staff said this was a possibility.

Lastly, Ms. Lindblad asked about the CBO strategy. While Communications staff was not present to answer this, Metro staff would look into getting an answer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.