



# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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## Transportation Committee Meeting Notes

Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: West Covina City Hall

### 1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.\*

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call / Introductions

#### Members Present

Alhambra

Baldwin Park

Diamond Bar

Duarte

Walnut

B. Messina

A. Bejarano

J. Tanaka, D. Liu

J. Fasana

T. King

#### Members Absent

El Monte

Glendora

Industry

LA County District 5

La Verne

Montebello

Monterey Park

Pasadena

San Gabriel

Sierra Madre

#### Ex-Officio Members

Foothill Transit

SGVCOG Metro TAC Representative, L. Stevens

#### SGVCOG Staff

N. Conway, Executive Director

M. Creter, Staff

M. Echternach, Staff

#### Guests

S. Afshari, LAC DPW

J. Cristaeles, City of Pasadena Department of Transportation

A. Gonzalez, City of Covina

P. Hubler, ACE Project

A. Jackson, City of West Covina

B. McAllester, Metro

G. Neely, Office of Assemblymember Bob Huff

M. Swink, City of Alhambra

S. Wiggins, Metro

### 2.0 Public Comment

There was not public comment.

### 3.0 Consent Calendar (*Recommended Action: Receive and File*)

3.1 July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

- 3.2 June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 ACE Construction Authority Meeting Minutes
- 3.3 Transit Operators
  - 3.3.1 Foothill Transit
  - 3.3.2 Montebello Bus Lines
  - 3.3.3 Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector
- 3.4 Correspondence/Media Publications

The items on the consent calendar will be carried over to the October meeting.

#### 4.0 Metro's Sales Tax Ballot Measure

The Executive Director gave an update on this item. He stated that many of the Valley's leaders, including Director Fasana, Supervisors Antonovich, Molina and Knabe, have been actively working to oppose this ballot measure since it did not guarantee a fair share of the funding for the San Gabriel Valley. The Executive Director reviewed additional analysis with respect to the employment base in Los Angeles County. He noted that San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley and Gateway Cities account for 52% of the County's jobs, while the Westside accounts for 11% of the jobs in the County. Additionally, this analysis shows that the Westside and downtown Los Angeles have the highest average wages, while the SGV has average wages that are below the County median. This analysis indicates that there is a significant transit dependant population in the San Gabriel Valley, particularly more so than the Westside.

#### 5.0 Congestion Pricing Update

Metro staff gave an update on this project and stated that on August 30, 2008, SB1422 (Ridley-Thomas) was approved by the legislature. This legislation provides the legal authority for Metro to implement the Demonstration Project on I-10 El Monte Busway and I-110 Harbor Transitway for up to three years. It is now awaiting signature by the Governor. Additionally, the Metro Board needs to certify the project list at its September meeting.

The project, as it is currently proposed, would still allow carpools to utilize the HOT lanes in the same manner that they currently utilize them. The major components of this project that will benefit the San Gabriel Valley include:

- the purchase of new buses for Foothill Transit to operate additional service along the El Monte Busway;
- the purchase of new buses for Metro to operate additional service along the El Monte Busway;
- the expansion of park and ride facilities at the El Monte Transit Center;
- direct access to Union Station from the El Monte busway (rather than via Alameda) and,
- Platform extension, and additional parking for at the Pomona Metrolink Station on Metrolink's San Bernardino Line.

Metro staff stated that revenue raised along the I-10 would be retained for projects in the San Gabriel Valley.

Questions were asked about the following issues:

- **Technology:** As required under State law, the HOT lanes will utilize transponders (same as those used in Orange County)
- **Cost per vehicle:** Staff is still modeling the anticipated cost per vehicle. It is expected that they will have initial estimates developed by Spring 09. They anticipate it may be similar to Orange County's cost model, which is \$1/miles during superpeak hours.
- **Mixed use during non-peak hours:** This application is allowable under the Federal funding requirements, but is unclear under State law.
- **Project list:** While Metro is receiving \$210.6 million to implement this pilot project, only \$70 million is being used for the infrastructure associated with the toll lanes. Metro staff stated that the additional funding is being used on other projects, such as smart parking, that improve the overall functioning of the system and will increase ridesharing opportunities and access to public transportation.

#### 6.0 Congestion Mitigation Update

The Executive Director and Metro staff gave an update on this item. They stated that since March, the Congestion Mitigation Fee Study Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the City Managers', Planning Directors' and Public Works Directors' TACs, have been meeting to discuss the possibility of Congestion Mitigation Fee feasibility pilot study in the San Gabriel Valley and to develop a scope of work. This committee has also been working with Metro staff to secure consultant services to provide the necessary manpower needed to complete this study effort. On September 2nd, Metro and COG staff finalized this scope of work and project schedule. The funding for the entire Phase 2 of Metro's Congestion Mitigation Fee Nexus Study totals \$930,000, and the San Gabriel Valley pilot study will be included in the request for proposal as a subtask in the scope of

work. Metro staff is now seeking approval from the Metro Board to move forward with Phase 2, which will include the pilot study. It is expected that this will go before the Metro Board in September or October, and a consultant will be hired and begin work by January or February 2009.

**7.0 State Legislation**

Executive Director stated that the agenda packet includes information about the high speed rail ballot that will be included on the November ballot. He also stated that staff will continue to update members on SB 375 as more information becomes available.

**8.0 Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority**

The Executive Director of ACE stated that they will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the East End Grade Separation on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**9.0 Gold Line Foothill Extension Report**

The Chair referred committee members to the written report in the agenda packet.

**10.0 Metro Report (LACMTA)**

**10.1 Caltrans/MTA Geo-Technical Studies for SR-710 Extension (Tunnel) TAC Update**

The Executive Director gave an update on this item. He stated that the study, which will determine the geotechnical feasibility of a tunnel option for the 710 completion. The study is being funded by Congressman Adam Schiff and Caltrans is serving as the lead agency. He also reviewed the proposed routes that are under consideration and will be included in the borings. Extended discussion followed regarding the attachment to the staff report showing the expanded scope of potential routes for the technical study.

**11.0 New Business**

**12.0 Next Meeting**

**13.0 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

\*Please note a quorum was not present at this meeting, so these notes are for informational purposes only.\*