

**MINUTES OF THE
SR-91/I-605/I-405 CORRIDOR CITIES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING
via Zoom
March 23, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken and presented below.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

	Name	City / Agency	Present	Absent
1	Okina Dor	Artesia	X	
2	Jerry Stock (Vice Chair)	Bellflower	X	
3	Kanna Vancheswaran (Alternate)	Cerritos	X	
4	Dan Garcia	Compton	X	
5	Ed Norris	Downey	X	
6	Bill Pagett	Hawaiian Gardens	X	
7	Bing Hyun	Industry		X
8	Max Withrow	Lakewood	X	
9	Carl Hickman	Long Beach		X
10	Glen Kau	Norwalk		X
11	Bill Padgett	Paramount	X	
12	Kenner Guerrero	Pico Rivera		X
13	Noe Negrete (Chair)	Santa Fe Springs	X	
14	Michelle Chapman	Whittier	X	
15	Mahdad Derakhshani	County of Los Angeles	X	
16	Eric Shen	San Gabriel Valley COG	X	
17	Ernesto Chaves	Metro	X	
18	Nancy Pe	Caltrans	X	
		Totals =	14	4

OTHER ATTENDEES: Kekoa Anderson, Yvette Kirrin, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, – COG Staff; Isaac Bravo, City of Whittier; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Lourdes Ortega, Julio Perucho, Carlos Montez, Nour Abou Fadel, Lucy Delgadillo – Metro; Michael Hynes, Diego Cadena – WKE-Inc; Wayne Richardson, HDR Inc; Amit Shah, Parsons; Charlene Palmer, NCE Net; Jamie Hwang, Office of Supervisor Hahn; Yoga Chandran, Shannon Willits – HNTB; Andy Nowak, Moffatt & Nichol; Jackie Martinez, BKF; Jeff Fromhertz, WSP; Karen Chapman, TYLIN; Romeo Firme, Kleinfelder; Kandice Nguyen, Aye Inc; Steve Huff, Baker Int; Kathy Tegeler, Epic Land; Camilo Rocha, Tran Systems; Nicole Jules, Inter West Group; Joe Linton, Streetblog.

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

V. MATTERS FROM STAFF

There were no matters from staff.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of January 26, 2021, of the SR-91/I-605/405 Technical Advisory Committee.

It was moved by (Bill Pagett) Paramount, seconded by (Ed Norris) Downey to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2021. The motion was approved without objection.

VII. REPORTS

A. 91/605/405 Program Update – Report by Metro. This item was presented by Carlos Montez.

Mr. Montez provided brief updates on various freeway hot spots projects, including the development phase status of WB SR 91/605 (Alondra to Shoemaker), 91 - Central to Acacia, 605/Beverly, 605/South Street, 60/7th Street and the 605 EIR projects. He noted that several of them were in Tier 2 funding pots meaning that they are on-hold for design, RW and/or construction, post the completion of the environmental phase, due to the reduction in sales tax revenues from the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was noted that Metro is pursuing all available funding opportunities.

It was moved by (Michelle Chapman) Whittier, seconded by (Nancy Pe) Caltrans to receive and file the report. The motion was approved without objection.

B. Modernizing the Metro Highway Program – Oral Report by Metro

Mr. Ernesto Chavez, Metro provided an oral report, noting the upcoming proposed changes to the Measure R & M guidelines, specific to the highway program, that will allow additional project elements to be eligible for funding. Nearly all improvements with exception of roadway rehabs will become eligible.

Ms. Yvette Kirrin, GCCOG provided additional comment that the same process would remain in place regarding request for funding, from the local jurisdictions, coming through that TAC, and that the TAC will be responsible for ensuring that projects remain sub-regional in nature. She noted that the additional elements that become eligible, via this policy change, should not be implemented in such a way to dilute the goals of the TAC in implementing operational improvements. She noted the difficulty in wearing “the subregional hat” as a TAC member, vs. the “the City hat” and that there are finite funds remaining that could be gobbled up, and not provide much operational benefit to the arterial and/or freeways if used solely for complete streets projects, especially without any type of matching funds, as these projects are expensive.

It was moved by (Bill Pagett) Lakewood, seconded by (Jerry Stock) Bellflower to receive and file the report. The motion was approved without objection.

C. Current Program Funding Update – Report by Nour Abou Fadel (Metro)

Nour provided an update regarding the executed funding agreements, as well as those in process. She noted that approximately \$30 million obligated from Measure M MSP, and that not all the funding agreements have been executed. It was also noted that approximately \$112 million was obligated in Measure R funds, with only \$24.99 million remaining in the local funds for the program. She requested that everyone submit invoices on a regular basis.

It was moved by (Dan Garcia) Compton, seconded by (Michelle Chapman) Whittier to Receive and File the report. The motion was approved without objection.

D. Measure R Funding Requests – Whittier Boulevard at Santa Fe Springs Road and Painter Avenue Hot Spots Projects – Additional Funds Needed – Request by Julio Perucho (Metro) on behalf of City of Whittier.

Julio provided a PowerPoint presentation that included both projects, as Metro is completing them concurrently. He noted that the city of Whittier needs additional funds for both projects. For the Whittier Boulevard - Santa Fe Springs (or the 5-Points) Intersection improvements, Metro is currently in the design and right of way phase. They anticipate 6 temporary construction easements in one permanent easement. Additional funds necessary is approximately \$3.5 million. The benefits of this project include an approximately 50 second reduction in PM peak delay and a 90 second reduction in AM peak delay.

The Painter Avenue Intersection Improvements project also has a project cost increase of approximately \$5.443 million.

Metro noted that they were going through the two-step process for funding because of the overall total of \$8.957 million being requested.

It was also noted that the scope did not change for either project. The consultant Team, to Metro, explained that the escalation in dollars from the 2018 planning study, to today's 2021 dollars, as well as mobilization and contingency were not accounted for in the original cost estimate. Additionally, a cost of the retaining wall, which went from a standard retaining wall to a non-standard retaining wall increased tenfold.

Chair Negrete asked if there were any additional matching funds that could be obtained for the project, noting this cost increase would draw down remaining Measure R funds to approximately \$16 million. Michelle Chapman, from the City of Whittier, noted that they never discussed having to contribute additional funds to this project.

Michelle Chapman from the city of Whittier noted that the city's preference is 5-Points or the Santa Fe Springs intersection, if the TAC determines that they only want to fund one or the other project cost increase.

Mr. Okina Dor, from the City of Artesia, noted that he is concerned about these construction cost increases, with so little remaining funds. Additional input was also provided by Mr. Eric Shen, from the SGVCOG, noting that the group should have a discussion about escalation, and if anyone can share escalation numbers for project management, design and/or construction costs, that it would be helpful, and maybe we wouldn't be surprised later when this sort of thing happens.

Chair Negrete noted that a subsequent TAC discussion should take place regarding how much funds to keep in reserve for ongoing projects as in the prior report it was noted that we're down to approximately \$25 million in remaining Measure R funds. Ernesto Chavez noted that these projects are in different phases but that they can do a analysis regarding the cost to build out all of them so that that EAC understands how much need still remains with so little money left in the

No Action was taken regarding the funding request, as direction was provided to Metro to bring back additional details next month, so the TAC could make a recommendation.

E. Gateway Cities COG Engineer Report by Kekoa Anderson

VIII. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Negrete commented that the 91/605/405 CCC, last month, also voted to incorporate the locally collaborated alternative into the 605 EIR, however, they added that they want to approve a public outreach plan for the remaining duration of the environmental process, prior to the circulation of the document.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

