

**MINUTES OF THE  
SR-91/I-605/I-405 CORRIDOR CITIES  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING  
via Zoom  
June 22, 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 (Bill Pagett) for	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	
		Total =	11	7

OTHER ATTENDEES: Kekoa Anderson, Yvette Kirrin, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, – COG Staff; Abdollah Ansari, Carlos Montez, Julio Perucho, Lourdes Kriste, Lucy Delgadillo, Nour Aboufadel, Isidro Panuco, Metro; Alex Contreras, Juan Martinez, Happy Cities; Andy Nowak, Moffatt & Nichol; Bo Burick, Darin Johnson, Mark Thomas; Cesar Rangel, Isaac Bravo, City of Whittier; Diego Cadena, HDR/WKE; Eric Diaz, Opititrans Eng, Inc; Georgia Medina, Stephanie Oslick, Moffatt & Nichol; Hava Bazz, Downey Resident; James Fowler, DR Consultant & Designer; Jayro Queme, Resident of Pico Rivera; Joe Linton, Streetblogs; Luke Klipp, Supervisor Hahn; Margaret Novak, Steve Huff, Michael Baker Int; Mark Christoffels, Michael Hynes, WKE, Inc; Mark

Mollineaux, Redwood City; Martha Camacho, City of Downey; Michael Schneider, Streets for All; Pouya Banibayat, Gannet Fleming; Shannon Willits, Yoga Chandran, HNTB; Sheryl Terrell, City of Industry.

### **III. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of March 23, 2021, of the SR-91/I-605/405 Technical Advisory Committee.

### **VI. REPORTS**

#### **A. 91/605/405 Hots Spots Update**

Carlos provided the update with a map and PowerPoint presentation for each of the freeway project status summaries.

It was moved by Dan Garcia (Compton) and seconded by Bill Pagett (Paramount) to receive and file report. It was approved without objection.

#### **B. Future of Highway Investments within our Sub-Region**

Nancy noted that the GCCOG is going to convene a Special Board meeting for the Board members to discuss the future of the Freeway Program within the subregion. She went over some of the policy issues that have taken place recently, and the GCCOG Board will discuss these actions. Nancy read the purpose and need of the 605/5 interchange from 2014, as an example to show the problem statement and how it can be addressed. On July 7, the high level goals include reviewing the purpose and need of the freeway facilities in our subregion regarding why we commenced with these project as priority projects to our subregion. Review of the relevant motions specific to the I-710 project. Caltrans is invited to talk about various policies, as well as the group will hear about the 91/605/405 Guiding Principles, and public comment will be offered. The Board Member will then engage in discussion regarding possible outcomes. There is a plan in place to compile background documents and get them out as early as possible. Nancy noted that she wanted to encourage attendance by all. She noted the technical difference between the regional status of the 710 project verses the multi-year subregional program (MSP) for Measure M,.

Ms. Kirrin provided an overview of the committee report.

Noe noted that the transportation network including multiple modes of transportation, and that we don't use just one mode to get from point A to B. He noted that we use modes including rails, bus, freeways/highways, bike lanes, sidewalks and local streets, which are all part of the network for leisure, work and/or moving goods, in a highly urban area. He noted that the freeways are the number one user, as people still use their cars. He noted that while a long term goal may be for modes to shift, that current system is failing and requires improvements. He noted that the widening is more than just a lane, it's also the auxiliary lane that people get on and off the freeways between ramps, which is needed because there are accidents. This is where weaving occurs and will continue to be a problem, which is what the constituents have asked us to fix. People are primarily worried about right-of-way impacts vs. the anti-freeway movement, so Metro and Caltrans needs to try and minimize these impacts. Our purpose as TAC members and engineers/technicians is find ways to move goods and people.

Noe addressed some of the concerns regarding Metrolink and Amtrack and the service improvements at the SFS/Norwalk station.

Ed Norris from Downey noted that many would agree with his comments, and noted that it's impossible to please everyone. He noted that we are all doing our best to create a well-balanced transportation system for all users and modes. Also noting that we are all doing our part to provide AT improvements for our residents and regional commuters alike, including Downey's Bike Masterplan, as an example. We are trying to accommodate the needs of the traveling public the best we can, and nobody likes a freeway in their back yard. He noted his own personal residence near the 405, which includes noise, particulates, but it's necessary, because so many need to drive long distances in the LA Metropolitan area. We don't yet have a transit/rail system that has good connectivity, as nobody lives close enough to get there, to or from those stops and stations. We can encourage car-pooling, but we are being pressed for more capacity due to the system being outdated and decades behind, which needs to be done with all the other improvements needed to keep up with demand. He noted that we need to balance with the needs of the users. He added that the alternative, or the reality, that if we don't address the capacity to keep up with demand, it will divert into the cities and clog our city streets, which is costing Cities money in maintaining City streets that are deteriorating prior to when they should, due to the levels of heavy traffic beating up the pavement.

Bill from Paramount commented that goods movement adds to the equation. Two of the lanes, sometimes three are taken up with trucks. They are moving in and out of California, and the freeway capacity has been lost by us due to goods movement, which will continue due to Port growth. Even if we get people off the

road, the freeway will be taken up by trucks. The Ports are moving a lot of goods, West of the Mississippi and are continuing to grow. Even if people get out of their cars, the trucks will remain on the freeway.

Noe mentioned that with the use of Waze, the local streets are now getting beat up by people exiting the freeways and the Cities can't keep up, as they were trying to get 25 service years and now we are getting around 10 years, and we don't have budget to repave the streets.

Michelle from Whittier said that trucks leave the freeway when it's backed up, which becomes an even bigger problem for the residents.

Dan from Compton agrees with the sentiments expressed.

Mahdad from the County also agreed but didn't want to repeat himself.

The motion is to Reaffirm support of the 91/605/405 freeway project priorities within the Gateway Cities.

It was moved by Jerry Stock (Bellflower) and seconded by Paramount (Bill Pagett). Roll call alphabetically by jurisdiction occurred noting those absent, those present and voting to approve and/or abstain.

The motion was approved by 9 members with one abstention from Metro and Caltrans left the meeting.

### **C. Current Program Funding Update**

Program Funding Update by Carlos (Noir provided the presentation). She noted that \$111 million has been allocated, \$43.5 through invoices and quarterly reports, and \$67 million remains unspent to date. Along with several funding agreements going through the process. She provided several graphical updates. The pie chart shows about \$25 million not programmed/allocated remaining.

It was moved by Bill Pagett (Paramount) and seconded by Ed Norris (Downey) to receive and file the report. The motion was approved without objection.

### **D. Measure R Funding Requests**

The Measure R Funding request for Whittier Boulevard was presented by Julio. This was the second of a two (2) part funding request. Julio shared a PowerPoint reviewing the conditions and proposed improvements, similar to the last meeting.

The total funding request for the City includes \$3.5 million for Santa Fe Springs Road, and the cost needed for Painter Ave is \$5.5 million, the total request is for \$9 million. The revised estimate does include about 5% contingency on the construction side.

During open discussion, Noe mentioned that Caltrans was driving a lot of requirements due to being SR-72 and the city was trying to take ownership of Whittier Boulevard. The city noted that they are in discussions with Caltrans regarding relinquishment, and it is possible. Also, regarding timing, it was hoped that cost could be minimized if the city took ownership.

It was noted that a motion to fund a request for just under \$9 million, would leave the Measure R balance at about \$16 million unallocated.

Motion to approve funding request for the City of Whittier for \$8,957,207 for the projects noted.

It was moved by Bill Pagett (Hawaiian Gardens) and seconded by Jerry Stock (Downey). The motion was approved without objection (10-0), with Caltrans absent from the quorum.

#### **E. Gateway Cities COG Engineer's Report**

- Yvette noted the SRTP Update extension deadline to July 31, 2021.
- Noe noted that the TAC should keep the July meeting open as a placeholder and can create a special meeting specific to the 605 EIR Outreach plan.
- Noe noted that it doesn't need a receive and file and should be removed from the agenda in the future.

#### **VII. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Noe noted that he'd like Metro to provide a "risk assessment" of cost overruns especially projects with right of way, due to the remaining balance of the Measure R local project funds. He requested a report at the next TAC meeting. The budget appears to have about \$16 million or 14% remaining local funds, which should be considered as contingency going forward, vs. spending funds on a new project. The other factor would be the available Measure M funding which could include an update with a new cycle of funding availability.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.