



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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Public Works Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Notes

Date: Monday, March 24th, 2008

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: SCE Customer Technology Application Center (CTAC)
6090 N. Irwindale Ave.
Irwindale, CA 91702

1.0 Preliminary Business

1.1 Call to Order

Please note that a quorum was not present at this meeting. Therefore, no official action was taken, and all meeting notes are for information only.

Members Present:

Arcadia

Azusa

Claremont

Diamond Bar
Irwindale
Monrovia
Montebello
Pasadena
San Dimas
West Covina
Los Angeles County DPW

Phil Wray
Lubomir Tomaier
Carl Hassel
James Makshanoff
David Liu
Rick Yee
Rene Bobadilla
Kwok Tam
Tom Melendrez
Bahman Janka
Krishna Patel
Shannon Yauchzee
Hank Hsing
Phil Doudar

Members Absent:

Alhambra
Baldwin Park
Covina
Duarte
El Monte
Glendora
Industry
La Canada Flintridge
La Puente
La Verne
Monterey Park
Pomona
Rosemead
San Gabriel
San Marino
Sierra Madre
South El Monte
South Pasadena
Walnut

Other Agencies:

S. Ahmad, SA Associates
F. Alamolhoda, LAE Associates, Inc.
M. Ariki, LA DPW
H. Hills, Metro
H. Hsing, LA DPW
B. Jong, Metro
D. Lee, Southern California Edison
B. McAllester, Metro
A. Teams, Metro
C. Wornum, Cambridge Systematics

COG Staff:

M. Creter, Staff
D. Kalovsky, Staff

2.0 Public Comment

3.0 Changes to Agenda Order; Identify Subsequent Need or Emergency Items

4.0 Consent Items

4.1 Notes from February 25th, 2008 meeting

Because a quorum was not present, no action was taken on this item.

5.0 Discussion Items (*Recommended Action: Discussion with possible action*)

5.1 Metro's Congestion Fee Feasibility Study

Representatives from Metro conducted a presentation on the topic. They introduced the subject by providing background. Metro began looking at the congestion mitigation fee in 2003. It is currently a feasibility study. They are asking for comments back from all the agencies by April 25th, 2008, and plan to be ready for action in June, where the next steps would be a nexus study. It was mentioned that the fee would be a one-time fee, with a county-wide minimum. The cities would collect and control all fees.

The following issues were discussed:

- ***Status of existing Credits & Debits:*** As the Congestion Management Agency for Los Angeles County, the MTA is required by state law to monitor local implementation of all CMP elements. Currently, a key CMP component is the deficiency plan through which jurisdictions track and report their local development activity as “debits” and transportation improvements as “credits.” Jurisdictions must maintain an annual positive balance of credits over debits to be in conformance with the CMP. If cities are found out of compliance they risk loss of their State gas tax monies as well as their eligibility for State and federal transportation monies. One issue that has been raised by a number of jurisdictions is whether these “credits” or “debits” would be translated into a proposed mitigation fee program. Additionally, whether there would be distinction between those cities with a high “credit” balance and those with a lower balance. Currently, Metro legal staff has indicated that any “credit” ***could not*** be converted into a monetary value under this new system as this would be providing a future benefit for a prior mitigation. However, failing to account for cities’ different “credit” levels could bring up equity issues.
- ***Fit with Local Fee Programs:*** Several cities within the San Gabriel Valley already have existing mitigation fee programs. According to Metro’s feasibility study, “local jurisdictions with existing fee programs receive dollar-for-dollar credit for local projects with a regional benefit consistent with an agreed upon guidelines.” This study would include a survey of all member agencies to determine which cities have fee programs and whether part or all of the fees collected would be eligible under this program. For example, in the case of Pasadena, 50% of the mitigation is used for transit services and it still needs to be determined if this is would eligible for credit under the program.
- ***Identification of a Project List:*** In the feasibility study, Metro staff identifies four project types that are eligible for funding under this program:
 - State Highway improvements (i.e. HOV lane an carpool interchange connector construction)
 - Regional surface transportation improvements (i.e. arterial widening, bottleneck intersection improvements, closure of gaps in the arterial system, and grade separations)
 - Signal synchronization, bus speed improvements, bottleneck intersection improvements, traffic control and monitoring, and Intelligent Transportation System.
 - Transit improvements (i.e. bus and rail transit capital and/or construction of transit stations and centers, park and ride lots, commuter rails stations, transit stop improvements and transit vehicle purchases).

- In order for this program to be implemented effectively with inter-jurisdictional cooperation, there needs to be consensus within the San Gabriel Valley and within any identified subareas about a project list and prioritization of these projects.

One concern that has been concerned by several jurisdictions is that Caltrans or transit operators may request that their projects be included in the project lists. Given the costs of such projects, they have the potential to either increase the fee level or, alternatively, these multi-million dollar projects could absorb all of the revenue that is raised. One central element of the COG's study would be to develop an agreed upon project list that could be reasonably funded with the fees that were collected.

5.2 Update on Caltrans' I-210 Congestion Relief Project

SGVCOG staff referred committee members to the written report that was included in the packet and stated that the freeway-to-freeway metering at the I-605 and SR-57 interchanges have been activated. Cities along this corridor have been alerted that this is expected to result in additional congestion along parallel arterials including Arrow Highway.

5.3 Update on Trench Cut Repair Ordinance

SGVCOG staff stated that this item was reviewed by the City Managers' TAC and it will be reviewed by the Governing Board in April.

5.4 SGVCOG Strategic Planning Session – May 13th

SGVCOG staff stated that this event has been scheduled for a weekday to encourage staff participation. It will be located at the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Headquarters in Azusa.

5.5 San Gabriel Valley Night at the Pasadena Pops – June 20th

SGVCOG stated that In an effort to create more social events outside of work for COG members to get to know each other, an event was organized at the Descanso Gardens. This will be on June 20th and tickets are discounted for member of the COG. All are encouraged to attend.

6.0 Update items

- 6.1 SGV Transportation Corridors
- 6.2 MTA Technical Advisory Committee
- 6.3 MTA Streets and Freeways Subcommittee
- 6.4 MTA Ad Hoc Congestion Pricing Committee
- 6.5 SGVCOG Transportation Committee Update

7.0 New Business items for Next Regular Meeting

8.0 Announcements

9.0 Next Meeting

10.0 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.