

Public Works Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Public Works Committee was called to order by Chair Mark Lancaster at 2:03 p.m. on February 10, 2022, on the Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Lancaster led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning - Nate Smith
- City of Beaumont - Jeff Hart
- City of Calimesa - Kristine Malcama
- City of Canyon Lake - Craig Bradshaw
- City of Jurupa Valley - Mike Myers*
- City of Lake Elsinore - Yu Tagai
- City of Menifee - Nick Fidler
- City of Moreno Valley - Michael Lloyd
- City of Murrieta - Bob Moehling
- City of Norco - Sam Nelson
- City of Perris - Stuart McKibbin
- City of San Jacinto - Stuart McKibbin
- City of Temecula - Patrick Thomas
- City of Wildomar - Jason Farag
- County of Riverside - Mark Lancaster (Chair)
- Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) - Jillian Guizado
- Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) - Mauricio Alvarez

*Arrived after Roll Call

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR** – (RCTC / Murrieta) 16 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.A was approved.

A. Summary Minutes from the December 9, 2021, Public Works Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the December 9, 2021, Public Works Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Resilient IE Phase II Update

Timothy Grose and Juan Carlos Lam with WSP provided an update on Phase II of the Resilient IE study. The Resilient IE Program was developed by WRCOG and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority with funding from Caltrans. Resilient IE works to support regional and local efforts to prepare for and mitigate risks to the region's transportation system posed by climate-related hazards. Phase I of Resilient IE focused mostly on evaluating the transportation system on a regional or systems scale. It also included two pilot risk assessments on how changes in climate-related hazards affect two roadway segments and the people who use them. Phase II, also funded by Caltrans, builds off of Phase I and includes a dozen more risk assessments. These local transportation projects / assets (e.g., roadways, bus stops, railways, bridges / culverts, bike lanes, and maintenance facilities) have been evaluated for their natural hazard risks (e.g., extreme heat, wildfires, floods, drought, landslides, and debris flows) and how to address these risks through resilience strategies. The goal for these assessments is to assist member agencies in identifying cost-effective strategies and making the case for both state and federal funding for the projects.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. VMT Implementation Assistance - VMT Calculator Demonstration

Delia Votsch from Fehr & Peers provided a demonstration on the VMT Calculator developed for WRCOG and its member agencies. The calculator will assist with VMT estimation using data from the regional model without needing to run the local model. The tool can be used for most small projects that do not meet VMT screening requirements. The tool can also help local jurisdictions with reviewing the VMT estimates developed by consultants.

This tool will be sent to Committee members and posted on the WRCOG website shortly after the meeting.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. Trip Origin-Destination Assessment

Christopher Tzeng, WRCOG Program Manager, provided an overview of the origin-destination assessment utilizing big data as a means to better understand whether TUMF is fulfilling its goal of providing to major arterial roadways to accommodate for regional travel in WRCOG's subregion. The analysis utilized big data from Streetlight Data and commuting data sources, such as the California Household Travel Survey and the Longitudinal Employer Housing Dynamics. The analysis looked into items such as the origin of trips traveling into the boundaries of each member agency, the destination of trips traveling from each member agency, commute trip distances, trip type, and the trip distribution to-and-from each member agency during the p.m. peak hour. Draft assessments have been summarized and will be disseminated to the respective Committee members for input after this meeting.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

D. WRCOG Broadband Assessment

Daniel Soltero, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that there is a increased demand for internet bandwidth due to more smart devices in the market and the number of people working from home. Michael Baker International (MBI) conducted research to identify agencies and organizations that have successfully implemented either city-wide or regional broadband.

Staff met virtually with the County of Riverside to discuss its RIVCO Connect Program. Although RIVCO Connect has not yet been implemented, the County will continue to work with local government agencies to streamline the permitting process and attract internet service providers to the region. Staff also held discussions with the Inland Empire Broadband Consortium (IERBC), a non-profit organization funded by a CPUC grant, which seeks to advance smart communities by attracting internet service providers to San Bernardino and Riverside County to deploy broadband in unserved or underserved communities.

Staff also met with the Cities of Loma Linda and Rancho Cucamonga, as well as the South Bay Cities COG (SBCCOG). A few of the key lessons learned from those discussions are that fiber networks should be constructed with built-in redundancy; local governments should adopt “dig once / dig smart” policies and install as much fiber as possible; and that while public-private partnerships can be tough to navigate they can be an effective method to expedite construction of fiber networks. Finally, the SBCCOG Fiber Network made it clear that regional collaboration provides bargaining power and can help reduce broadband service rates for local governments.

Staff provided a listing of funding opportunities established by federal and state legislation that support broadband planning and implementation projects. Staff are evaluating the potential for Regional Streetlight Program revenues to subsidize grant writing assistance for participating members seeking broadband or smart city grants.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Gray reported that WRCOG will commence an effort to develop a potential VMT mitigation program for Western Riverside County. Participation in any potential program will be on a voluntary basis. WRCOG encourages interested jurisdictions to participate in the stakeholder meetings that will be held as part of the development process. Updates will be provided to the Committee periodically.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.