

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair Bob Moehling at WRCOG's office, Citrus Conference Room.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Lori Askew, City of Calimesa
Jonathan Smith, City of Menifee
Michael Wolfe, City of Moreno Valley (3:05 p.m. departure)
Bob Moehling, City of Murrieta, Chair
Brad Brophy, Cities of Canyon Lake, Perris, and San Jacinto
Gil Hernandez, City of Riverside
Patrick Thomas, City of Temecula
Dan York, City of Wildomar
Patty Romo, County of Riverside
Jenny Chan, Riverside County Transportation Commission
Mauricio Alvarez, Riverside Transit Agency

Staff present:

Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning
Christopher Tzeng, Program Manager
Cameron Brown, Program Manager
Ivana Medina, Staff Analyst
Rachel Singer, Staff Analyst
Suzy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Guests present:

Carlos Geronimo, City of Menifee
Darren Henderson, WSP / WRCOG consultant
Michael Good, WSP
Matthew Yancy, WMWD, Fellow
Paul Rodriguez, Rodriguez Consulting Group
Nathan Mustafa, City of Riverside
Andrew Warfield, City of Riverside, Fellow
Alvin Medina, County of Riverside
Stephanie Hsiung, County of Riverside
Amer Attar, City of Temecula
Monica Killen, MNS Engineering

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Bob Moehling led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. MINUTES (Moreno Valley / Temecula) 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.A was approved. The Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore and Norco, and March Joint Powers Authority were not present.

A. Summary Minutes from the December 12, 2019, Public Works Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.

Action: 1. *Approved Summary Minutes from the December 12, 2019, Public Works Committee meeting.*

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (Wildomar / Perris) 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 6.A and 6.B were approved. The Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore and Norco, and March Joint Powers Authority were not present.

A. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. TUMF Revenue and Expenditures Update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Resilient IE Activities Update

Eli Krispi provided an update on the final draft of the Caltrans-funded Resilient IE Toolkit. In collaboration with the San Bernardino County Transportation Commission (SBCTA) and WRCOG, the Toolkit will provide member jurisdictions with a streamlined and cost-effective climate resiliency plan as well as help with legislative compliance. Resources within the toolkit include city-level evacuation routes with identified route hazards, a guidebook to support resilient transportation infrastructure, and a template resilience element that can be used to comply with State mandates for local planning.

Mike Flood provided an overview of two risk-based vulnerability assessment pilots that were surveyed, one being the I-10 in Ontario, near Ontario Airport, and the other being the I-15 through the Cajon Pass. WRCOG and SBCTA received a follow-up grant from Caltrans to build upon these pilots and implement for different assets. A risk-based approach can provide critical data points for stakeholders as well as a better understanding of socioeconomic impacts.

Staff and consultants are now working to address the final requirements of the grant, in addition to preparing a final project case study. Per the grant requirements, the principle components of Resilient IE will conclude by the end of February 2020 and staff will submit all invoicing and reporting requirements to Caltrans by March 2020.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. Adoption and Implementation of Senate Bill 743

Chris Gray provided an update on the status of the Senate Bill (SB) 743, which will require local agencies to use Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as an impact criterion when evaluating a project's transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

On November 26, 2019, a decision was published by the Third Appellate District for the California Court of Appeals that directly addressed SB 743. The Court reached three major findings: 1) when

considering issues like SB 743 and its applicability, the timing is determined by the date the document was circulated, not when it was reviewed; 2) VMT analysis is not required at this time, since the requirement does not apply until July 1, 2020; and 3) level of service (LOS) cannot be used in context of CEQA decision-making for transportation-related impacts. Based on staff's research, the first two items can be viewed in a positive light, meaning that projects are not yet required to consider VMT as a transportation impact and it verifies that the requirement does not apply until July 1, 2020. Staff finds the third conclusion to be problematic since many jurisdictions are currently evaluating projects using LOS solely as the basis for transportation impacts under CEQA. Based on this conclusion, there are on-going discussions between various CEQA attorneys, transportation consultants, and agency staff.

WRCOG recommends that each member agency consult with its legal counsel to determine the most appropriate course of action for projects which are currently in process. There is a clear agreement on one topic – VMT analysis will need to be incorporated into any environmental document circulated after July 1, 2020. Because of that WRCOG strongly recommends that each of its member agencies move forward with developing and applying VMT-based thresholds and analysis procedures. Staff has provided a sample resolution and staff report attached to the staff report.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Updated Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines Template

Chris Gray provided an update on the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines template which is available for use by any jurisdiction in the WRCOG subregion. The Guidelines focus on two major components: 1) Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) guidance consistent with information from the WRCOG SB 743 Implementation Pathway Study, and 2) updates to the level of service (LOS) guidelines currently being utilized in the subregion.

In addition, the Guidelines include state-of-the-practice analysis techniques for LOS assessment. TIA Guidelines in general should be updated in a manner that are easy to adjust and revise for jurisdictions to utilize for its purposes. The Guidelines references required improvements instead of historic California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) terminology in order to distinguish between CEQA and non-CEQA requirements. Lastly, the LOS naming is simplified to be more consistent with requirements in other jurisdictions statewide.

The project team will communicate its findings and present the updated Guidelines through the WRCOG standing committees and distribute such at the March Planning Directors and Public Works Committees.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. TUMF Nexus Study Survey Results

Ivana Medina provided an update on the survey results noting the Committee's goals for the next TUMF Nexus Study update. WRCOG anticipates that it will initiate a comprehensive update of the TUMF Nexus Study in the summer of 2020. In an effort to gather all perspectives for the main topics discussed during the November Public Works Committee meeting, staff has created five core questions to gather additional input on key issues. The results from the survey were discussed. Committee members will be requested to provide recommendations on a number of actions on how to proceed in the multitude of options provided in the coming months.

The consultant firm Kimley-Horn was retained to conduct an in-depth analysis of factors contributed to the increase in project costs. Staff plans to have the results presented in the spring of 2020.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Public Service Fellow Presentations

Rachel Singer introduced Matthew Yancy, who is currently completing his Fellowship at the Western Municipal Water District, and Andrew Warfield, who is completing his Fellowship with the City of Riverside. Each Fellow presented on their current projects that they have helped work on and shared future plans as their fourth round of the Fellowship comes to a close at the end of March 2020.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

F. Grant Opportunities Summary Table

Christopher Tzeng provided an update on the current grant opportunities available to member jurisdictions. WRCOG provides assistance to its member jurisdictions to fund local projects through the Grant Writing Assistance Program. The Program aims to strengthen the subregion's overall competitiveness for statewide funding and to provide supplemental support to member jurisdictions that can be prevented from seeking grant funds due to limited capacity and/or resources.

Mr. Tzeng surveyed the Committee to ensure effectiveness of the summary table. Members were very thankful and shared that the email that staff sends out also gets forwarded to other departments within its agency.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

8. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING

There was no report from the Director of Transportation & Planning.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m., at WRCOG's office located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 450, Riverside.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 3:20 p.m.