

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Sam Nelson on the Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Art Vela, City of Banning
Michael Thornton, City of Calimesa (3:30 p.m. departure)
Jimmy Chung, City of Eastvale (2:08 p.m. arrival)
Steve Loriso, City of Hemet (3:00 p.m. departure)
Mike Myers, City of Jurupa Valley
Remon Habib, City of Lake Elsinore
Carlos Geronimo, City of Menifee
Michael Wolfe, City of Moreno Valley
Bob Moehling, City of Murrieta
Sam Nelson, City of Norco, Chair
Stuart McKibbin, City of Perris (2:23 p.m. arrival)
Gil Hernandez, City of Riverside
Patrick Thomas, City of Temecula
Dan York, City of Wildomar
Alvin Medina, County of Riverside
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA
Jillian Guizado, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) (2:36 p.m. arrival)
Kristin Warsinski, Riverside Transit Agency

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR *(Moreno Valley / Murrieta) 14 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention. Item 5.A was approved. Representatives from the Cities of Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Perris, and San Jacinto, and RCTC were not present.*

A. Summary Minutes from the April 8, 2021, Public Works Committee Meeting

Action: 1. *Approved Summary Minutes from the April 8, 2021, Public Works Committee meeting.*

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. 2021 TUMF CCI Adjustment Update

Ivana Medina, WRCOG Senior Analyst, presented on the proposed Construction Cost Index (CCI) to the TUMF network. Staff is required to bring information on an annual CCI adjustment through the WRCOG Committees structure for discussion and recommendation for consideration by the Executive

Committee. The CCI is an administrative element of the TUMF Program and is intended to keep the dollar value of the TUMF Program whole. In recent years, the Executive Committee has not approved a CCI adjustment to the TUMF, except for the 2019 CCI adjustment. Staff did not bring forward a CCI adjustment in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the adoption of the 2016 TUMF Nexus Study, construction, labor, and land costs have demonstrated an increasing trend. Though the Caltrans CCI is not a factor in determining the adjustment to the TUMF, there has been a sharp increase in costs. Factors contributing to the increase include tariffs and the rebounding economy placing competition on transportation construction from other sectors for materials and labor. This is intended to demonstrate the rising costs of transportation improvements throughout the state, including a handful of interchange projects that are currently underway in the WRCOG subregion. The Executive Committee adopted two indices in the 2016 Nexus Study as the basis for completing CCI adjustments to the TUMF schedule of fees. The TUMF CCI adjustment is based on the percentage increase in the Engineering News Record (ENR) CCI for the 12-month period from January 2020 to January 2021, and the percentage increase in the National Association of Realtors (NAR) Median Sales Price of Existing Single-Family homes in the Riverside / San Bernardino Metropolitan Statistical Area for the 12-month period from the 3rd Quarter of 2019 to the 3rd Quarter of 2020 (to coincide with the publication of the most recently updated index).

The ENR CCI has increased approximately 2% and the NAR Median Sales Price of existing Single-Family homes in the Riverside / San Bernardino Metropolitan Statistical Area has increased 12%.

WRCOG is requesting a recommendation to forward to the Executive Committee for its approval at the next appropriate meeting. Staff will also be providing a presentation on this item at the May Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Staff notes that during the 2016 Nexus Study update process the Executive Committee approved a reduction to the TUMF retail land use fee in response to comments from stakeholders regarding retail developments in Western Riverside County. The Fee Analysis Study completed by WRCOG in 2017, and updated in 2019, confirmed that, on average, the impact fee costs to develop a retail project is higher in Western Riverside County than in surrounding areas. The actual retail CCI adjustment fee should be \$14.23 per square foot. It is staff's recommendation to continue the retail freeze at \$7.50 per square foot. Staff added that the retail fee generates approximately 3% of all TUMF revenues or approximately \$1 million – \$2 million per year.

Additionally, as part of the adoption of the 2016 Nexus Study, the Executive Committee approved a two-year freeze, followed by a two-year phase-in, to the Single-Family residential TUMF. The first portion of the phase-in was implemented July 1, 2019. The 2019 CCI fee adjustment was then implemented in a phase-in approach, with all land uses increased on July 1, 2020. Lastly, the Single-Family residential fee was raised to its full fee on January 1, 2021. A similar approach can be taken on this CCI adjustment at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Action: 1. *Recommended that the Executive Committee approve the 2021 Construction Cost Index adjustment for each land use type.*

(Wildomar / Lake Elsinore) 14 yes; 2 no; 1 abstention. Item 6.A was approved. Representatives from the Cities of Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Corona, and San Jacinto were not present. There was no response from RTA. The Cities of Menifee and Murrieta voted no and RCTC abstained.

B. ITS TUMF Program Eligibility

Cameron Brown, WRCOG Program Manager, presented an outline of changes to the upcoming Nexus Study update to allow Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects as TUMF eligible expenses. Eligibility is proposed for two scenarios. One for ITS enhancements to current and future TUMF projects where ITS would become an eligible expense. Another scenario would be for ITS projects to be stand-alone projects on facilities on the TUMF network in which widening is no longer feasible. ITS improvements on these facilities would be added to the TIP through the annual TIP update process.

The benefit of adding ITS projects is that it helps TUMF continue to be relevant into the future as some areas of the subregion are experiencing build out and can no longer widen roads. ITS provides an opportunity to improve conditions where costly widenings cannot take place. Additionally, TUMF funding for ITS can be used to leverage other funding that is becoming increasingly available from federal, state, and regional agencies. ITS eligibility would be proposed to be added to the Nexus Study update.

Further discussion on this item was continued to a future meeting where more background will be provided to understand the scope of the projects and the cost estimates for implementing this into the TUMF Nexus Study.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. VMT Mitigation Program for Development Projects

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, presented on how active transportation projects would assist in Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) mitigation for development projects. A major challenge with VMT mitigation is that appropriate mitigation measures could include purchasing transit passes for employees, improving bicycle / pedestrian facilities, or funding improvements to the regional bus network. These improvements present additional questions and potential issues.

Staff evaluated other potential mitigation approaches: Fee-based approach would be a fee which mitigates a project's impacts. Under this approach, a project would pay a fee that would fund regional transit, bicycle / pedestrian, and other travel demand management strategies; and mitigation bank approach quantifies the cost of VMT improvements and project applicants can choose to purchase VMT credits from the bank. The types of projects funded by a bank would be like those in a fee program, and a VMT exchange approach, which is similar to a bank but does not have a set cost for VMT reducing improvements. Under this approach, a project applicant goes to the exchange and requests a certain amount of VMT reduction.

Staff is evaluating an approach to incorporate a VMT mitigation program into the TUMF Program and will provide additional information at future Committee meetings as this develops.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. 2020-2021 Community Transportation Needs Assessment

Kyle Rodriguez, WRCOG Senior Analyst, provided an update on the Clean Cities Coalition's Community Transportation Needs Assessment (CTNA) Voucher awarded by the California Air Resources Board Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Pilot Program.

The CTNA seeks to identify the unmet community mobility needs of low-income and disadvantaged communities and develop sustainable solutions in partnership with its residents. WRCOG has partnered with the zero-emission carshare, EViaShare, to conduct the CTNA. EViaShare will be seeking input from community members through July in three cities: Corona, Moreno Valley, and San Jacinto, as well as neighboring California Native American Tribes such as the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. The CMO Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

The Assessment will illustrate underlying causes in transportation within the project area and potential solutions through community clean mobility options such as Carshare. Staff continue to work with the community to receive participation on surveys and workshops.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

7. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Gray shared that TUMF Zone meetings with the Public Works Committee have been completed. Executive Committee Zone meetings plan to be scheduled in early- to mid-June 2021. WRCOG will be setting up a brief TUMP TIP process overview with the new Executive Committee members prior to the Executive Committee Zone meetings.

Mr. Gray shared that the 30th Annual General Assembly will take place Thursday, June 24, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a theme of "Celebrating Resilience." The featured speaker is Daymond John, Founder and CEO of FUBU and Star of ABC's Shark Tank.

WRCOG has started to resume in-person meetings for smaller committees. As it stands, all meetings going forward will offer a virtual option for members, presenters, and guest to attend.

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, June 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 3:43 p.m.