

# Public Works Committee

## Minutes

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Public Works Committee was called to order by Chair Mark Lancaster at 2:01 p.m. on September 9, 2021, 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 - Art Vela
- City of Beaumont - Jeff Hart
- City of Calimesa - Kristine Macalma\*
- City of Eastvale - Jimmy Chung\*
- City of Hemet - Steve Loriso
- City of Jurupa Valley - Mike Myers
- City of Lake Elsinore - Yu Tagai
- City of Moreno Valley - Michael Wolfe
- City of Murrieta - Bob Moehling
- City of Norco - Sam Nelson
- City of Perris - Stuart McKibbin\*
- City of Riverside - Gil Hernandez
- City of Temecula - Amer Attar
- County of Riverside - Mark Lancaster (Chair)
- Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) - Jillian Guizado
- Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) - Kristin Warsinski

\*Arrived after roll call

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR** – (Murrieta / Banning) 14 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.A was approved.

#### **A. Summary Minutes from the August 12, 2021, Public Works Committee Meeting**

##### **Action:**

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the August 12, 2021, Public Works Committee meeting.

## **6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

### **A. VMT Mitigation Activities - City of Riverside**

Nathan Mustafa, Deputy Public Works Director with the City of Riverside, reported that the City, in the process of mitigating for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), has been suggested by consultants and others to consider alternate thresholds and using greenhouse gas as an alternative. The City was not comfortable in doing so and remained with recommendations from the Governor's Office of Planning & Research in order to prevent the City and its developers from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) challenges. In doing so, it has proven to be very costly when mitigating projects that have a significant impact.

The City is working to develop a VMT mitigation bank or exchange and with the goal of efficiency, is seeking opportunities to expand this program to other local / regional entities. The City is hoping to have this program up and running by first quarter 2022.

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, indicated that WRCOG has had a number of discussions with RCTC and RTA regarding VMT mitigation, and WRCOG staff had initially intended to address this matter in the TUMF Nexus Study update; however, it was determined that this best be completed in a parallel process.

Committee member Kristin Warsinski indicated that RTA has been approached regarding bulk pass purchases in an effort to mitigate VMT. RTA is also exploring a VMT bank that could be paid into to fund longer commuter link routes and planned to work with WRCOG and RCTC to develop a program.

Committee member Jillian Guizado indicated that this is a challenging problem and RCTC is committed to working on this type of program regionally.

Mr. Mustafa indicated that the City has looked at active transportation infrastructure but has found that costs are extreme.

#### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

### **B. TUMF Program Nexus Study Update**

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, reported that the last Nexus Study update occurred in 2017. The update will take 12 - 18 months to complete and will cost approximately \$200,000; staff will provide regular updates through WRCOG's committee structure.

The five reasons to update the Nexus Study include the idea that regular updates for fee studies are best practice, growth forecasts for the WRCOG subregion have changed, there have been changes in travel behavior, and updating the Nexus Study provides the ability to update the TUMF project list, and the ability to add new types of projects. Additionally, the TUMF Administrative Plan states that staff will review the Nexus Study four years after the adoption of the 2017 Nexus Study.

Staff is recommending the addition of Intelligent Transportation Systems-type projects as an eligible project type if the TUMF Nexus Study is updated. WRCOG has had a number of discussions with the

RCTC and the RTA regarding Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) mitigation, and, while WRCOG staff had initially intended to address this matter in the TUMF Nexus Study update, it was determined that this would best be completed concurrently with the Nexus Study update.

WRCOG would also like to prepare an update of the Fee Comparison Study which was last updated in 2019.

**Actions:**

Recommended that the Executive Committee do the following:

1. Direct staff to begin work on a TUMF Nexus Study update.
2. Direct staff to update the TUMF Administrative Plan to expand the TUMF-eligible project list to include Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects.
3. Direct staff to work with the Riverside County Transportation Commission and Riverside Transit Agency to evaluate options to mitigate VMT impacts from new development outside of the TUMF Nexus Study update.
4. Direct staff to begin work on an update of the Analysis of Development Impact Fees in Western Riverside County.

(Beaumont / County) 16 yes; 1 no; 0 abstention. Item 6.B was approved. The City of Calimesa voted no.

**C. Western Riverside County Energy Resilience Plan Activities Update**

Daniel Soltero, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that this initiative is grant-funded through the California Resilience Challenge, administered by the Bay Area Council.

The Western Riverside County Energy Resilience Plan will assess subregional critical facilities and identify the feasibility of implementing future microgrids and/or other energy resiliency solutions to maintain power supply during power outages. Once a list of facilities is determined, a feasibility analysis will be conducted at three sites across the subregion. An advisory group consisting of WRCOG member agencies has been established for this process.

Three workshops were held and staff identified three goals for the Plan which were widely accepted by member agencies and have identified key resilience issues impacting each community. There is a strong interest in developing replaceable examples of how energy resilience can be implemented. There is a desire for consistent access to electricity. Lastly, ensuring access to available fundamental health and safety services.

Sandy Mukherjee from AECOM reported that a hazard assessment and literature review has occurred, Plan goals and objectives have been established, and critical facilities and infrastructure have been prioritized as far as understanding energy requirements, available requirements, what the current infrastructure looks like, and where any gaps may be. Next steps include strategy assessment and framework and plan development.

Walker Wells from Raimi + Associates, reported that energy efficiency shows up as a baseline component in nearly all projects identified in the literature review. Solar and storage has been around for quite a bit of time; however, the storage aspect is still a work in progress. Energy can be generated

through microgrids and distributed to other buildings within the same property lines quite easily. Schools, libraries, and other community facilities can serve as resilience hubs, providing heating, cooling, lighting, electricity, etc.

A social vulnerability assessment will identify pockets of prioritization for investments. A facility vulnerability assessment is in progress to analyze climate hazards and social vulnerabilities that impact the proposed facilities, including extreme heat and wildfire, as well as disadvantaged communities and sensitive populations near the facilities.

Staff will coordinate with member agencies for the next steps in the Plan, which include filling facility data gaps, validating and finalizing the prioritized list of facilities, evaluating potential resilience strategies and interventions, and conducting a fall workshop to present new findings.

Chair Lancaster asked what constitutes extreme heat.

Mr. Wells responded that extreme heat is characterized as a temperature above an expected temperature for that day, for a duration longer than what has recently been experienced in the past, or more hot days with more hours of heat at a higher level than what has been recently experienced.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**7. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chris Gray reported that due to current proposed legislation, staff is unsure what future requirements will be; staff will update this Committee when that information becomes available.

**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, October 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., virtually via Zoom.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 3:01 p.m.