



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Monday, April 14, 2025 — 10:00 a.m.

Valley Municipal Building, Council Chambers
14410 Sylvan Street, 2nd Floor
Van Nuys, California 91401

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando

Vice-Chair: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi, City of Burbank

Mayor Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale

Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita

Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles

SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office

John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG

Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** — Mary Mendoza, Chair
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Board, any public comments on any of the Consent Calendar items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Board request specific items to be removed from the Consent Calendar.

- 5. MINUTES**
January 13, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ([Page 5](#))
Recommended Action: *Approve Minutes.*
- 6. FINANCIAL REPORT**
Review FY 2024-25 Financials January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025 ([Page 14](#))
Recommended Action: *Receive and File Financial Report*
- 7. APPOINTMENT: METRO STREETS AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** ([Page 15](#))
Recommended Action: *Appoint Wendell Johnson to the Metro Streets and Highways Subcommittee*
- 8. SUPPORT LETTER TO METRO** ([Page 16](#))
Recommended Action: *Send a letter to support for the MAT (Metro Active Transport) Program, Cycle 2 for gap funding for the LA RiverWay in the San Fernando Valley*

REGULAR CALENDAR

At the discretion of the SFVCOG, all items appearing on this Agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the SFVCOG.

9. CHAIR REPORT

Mayor Mary Mendoza, Chair of the Board

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director.

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON ANTELOPE VALLEY LINE CORRIDOR ([Page 18](#))

Recommended Action: *Adopt the recommendations from the SFVCOG Transportation Committee related to the Metrolink Antelope Valley Line corridor*

12. CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2025-26 SFVCOG BUDGET ([Page 20](#))

Requested Action: *Review and adopt the proposed FY 2025-26 SFVCOG Budget*

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Election of 2025-2026 Board Chair

B. Election of 2025-2026 Board Vice-Chair

Requested Action: *Elect a Board Chair and Vice-Chair to serve July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.*

14. 2024-26 MEETING SCHEDULE ([Page 22](#))

Recommended Action: *Determine Locations and Adopt Regular Meeting Schedule for FY25-26*

15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

16. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Announcement: San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Request for Proposals for Executive Director Services is open and can be found at

[Opportunity Details](#)

B. Announcements from the Board

17. NEXT MEETING

Proposed: Board Meeting: July 14, 2025 at 10am in Burbank

18. ADJOURNMENT

Notices:

Meetings of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments are recorded. Minutes of each meeting are available at <http://sfvcog.org/> after the Board approves them. A person with a disability may contact the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments before the scheduled meeting to request receipt of an agenda in an alternative format or to request disability-related accommodations, in order to participate in the public meeting, requests will be met to the extent feasible. Email info@sfvcog.org for accommodation. The entire agenda package and any meeting related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda package, unless exempt from disclosure pursuant to California Law, are also available.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTE MEETING DRAFT**

Monday, January 13, 2025 — 10:00 a.m.

Old Town Newhall Library
Community Room
24500 Main Street
Santa Clarita, CA 91321

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando
Vice-Chair: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate), City of Burbank
Mayor Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale
Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles
SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office
John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG
Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda - Monday, January 13, 2025

OPEN SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER** — Mary Mendoza, Chair
Chair Mary Mendoza called the Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted by Staff.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (8 Members):

Present 8: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Mashael Majid for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 4: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield,
Mayor Elen Asatryan, Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath,
Councilmember John Lee

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Stephanie Mullen, LA Metro representative, addressed the SFVCOG and mentioned about all the support from LA metro to impacted individuals, and all the supplies available to individuals such as clean masks.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Board, any public comments on any of the Consent Calendar items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Board request specific items to be removed from the Consent Calendar.

5. MINUTES

October 21, 2024 Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes ([Page 4](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve Minutes.*

On motion of Councilmember Marsha McLean, seconded by Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the SFVCOG approved the minutes with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 7: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 5: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember John Lee,
Mashaal Majid for Councilmember Nithya Raman

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Review FY 2023-24 Financials October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 ([Page 15](#))

Recommended Action: *Receive and File Financial Report*

On motion of Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, seconded by Councilmember Marsha McLean, the SFVCOG approved agenda item 6 with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 7: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 5: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember John Lee
Mashaël Majid for Councilmember Nithya Raman

REGULAR CALENDAR

At the discretion of the SFVCOG, all items appearing on this Agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the SFVCOG.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Mayor Mary Mendoza, Chair of the Board

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

Chair Mary Mendoza, began the meeting by reflecting on the legacy of President Jimmy Carter, honoring his many accomplishments, and also acknowledged the profound impact of the ongoing fires on affected communities, expressed deep gratitude for the bravery of first responders, and recognized the outpouring of support from people coming together during this challenging time.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

John Bwarie, the Executive Director began by acknowledging the exceptional work of Los Angeles' first responders and the robust coordination efforts across the city and county during recent challenges. He emphasized the organization's readiness to assist in disaster recovery and regional coordination beyond its immediate boundaries, encouraging members to consider potential collaborative opportunities in the coming weeks.

He also announced the planned launch of the organization's Mobility Academy on February 20. This five-session program trains city staff, elected officials, commissioners, and community leaders on transportation modes, planning, and mobility through experiential learning and expert presentations. Participants will engage in activities like riding public transit to gain a comprehensive understanding of transportation systems. He urged members to identify new staff, commissioners, or leaders who could benefit from the academy, highlighting its role in fostering mobility advocacy. Invitations will be sent soon, with capacity for up to 30 attendees

9. HOMELESS NOTICE OF FUNDING SOLICITATION ([Page 16](#))

The Executive Director provided an update on efforts to address homelessness in the region, specifically focusing on Item 16, which involves a notice of solicitation funded by Los Angeles County under Contract HI 237. Approximately \$100,000 is available, with the potential for allocating the funds as a single grant or splitting it into multiple smaller grants. To finalize these details, he proposed forming an ad hoc committee of three or four board members to provide guidance on key questions, such as the number of grants, regional focus, and technical considerations. The goal is to release the notice of funding within the next month and return to the board with recommendations based on the responses.

He highlighted three priority areas identified through discussions with technical advisory groups and regional staff:

1. Hospital Coordination and Discharge: Addressing gaps in coordination between hospitals and insurance providers to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness are not discharged without proper follow-up care or support.
2. Access Center Efficiency: Improving the effectiveness of access centers by reducing duplicative efforts, optimizing staff time, and enhancing service delivery.
3. Data and Research: Allocating funds for research to better understand regional homelessness causes and demographic disparities, particularly among women, children, and people of color, to inform prevention strategies.

The director emphasized the urgency of acting quickly to address these issues while ensuring that funding decisions align with the board's priorities.

On motion of Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank, seconded by Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the SFVCOG approved this item with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 8: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank
Mashaël Majid for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 4: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember John Le

Recommended Action: *Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad-hoc Committee to oversee the competitive grant solicitation process in accordance with the funding agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the SFVCOG for Homeless Services (Contract No. HI-23-007).*

10. OLYMPIC AD HOC COMMITTEE (PAGE 18)

Recommended Action: *Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad-hoc Committee to determine effective ways to coordinate its members and engagement of locals and visitors in those cities.*

The discussion centered on forming an ad-hoc committee to guide the organization's strategy leading up to the 2028 Olympic Games. This initiative aligns with the strategic plan adopted last year, which identified a need to focus on key priorities and prepare for the significant changes anticipated in the region.

The proposed ad-hoc committee will work closely with staff to develop recommendations and set the scope of future activities related to the Games. These recommendations will then be presented to the full board for further consideration. The process allows for thorough discussion and integration of strategic plan objectives, ensuring alignment with long-term goals.

The timeline for the committee's work was discussed, with a preference to present initial findings by the July meeting, though earlier updates in April would be welcome if feasible. This timeline ensures enough time for deliberation without delaying critical preparations.

To avoid conflicts with quorum requirements, membership on the committee will be limited, particularly for representatives from the City of Los Angeles and smaller cities. Once finalized, the committee will initiate its work and report back to the board with a clear framework for addressing the organization's role in the lead-up to the 2028 Games.

On motion of Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank, seconded by Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, the SFVCOG approved this item with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 8: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank
Mashael Majid for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 4: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember John Lee

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES

Recommended Action: Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad-hoc Committee to proceed with the recruitment for the SFVCOG's Executive Director for 2026 through the request for proposal process.

A deputy city attorney **his name** for Los Angeles provided an update on the search for a new Executive Director for the joint powers authority. The process involves collaboration between the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, County Counsel, and other stakeholders. To ensure a competitive and transparent selection, the team plans to use Grantham, an online procurement portal recognized as a best practice in the City of Los Angeles.

The attorney recommended forming an ad-hoc committee to guide the process, including defining the criteria for the new executive director, determining reasonable costs, and clarifying the scope of services. Questions were raised about the necessity of this process, given the existing contract. The attorney explained that the previous contract had expired and, under the City Charter, a competitive bidding process is required. This ensures compliance with governance rules and promotes fairness in selecting the next executive director. The discussion emphasized the importance of adhering to legal requirements while moving forward efficiently.

On motion of Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank, seconded by Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, the SFVCOG approved this item with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 8: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Vice Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate) for Burbank
Mashaël Majid for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 4: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember John Lee

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

There were none.

13. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board members and the Executive Director discussed enhancing the organization's webpages to better inform the public about how to donate and the types of supplies and financial assistance needed for first responders and individuals affected by recent events. They proposed unifying efforts under a single platform, encouraging the community to work together as one voice. Rather than creating a new platform, the focus would be on directing individuals to existing resources where they can offer help, donate, and support those in need.

14. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2025 10AM in City of Santa Clarita

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. Chair Mary Mendoza expressed gratitude to all first responders and reflected on the significant accomplishments of former President Jimmy Carter. Board member Doug Mensman for CouncilMember Adrian Nazarian honored the memory of those who lost their lives in the recent wildfires.

Notices:

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DRAFT

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FUND V54
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025**

			<u>Fund V54/Org 55665</u>
Cash Balance, January 1, 2025			\$ 312,246.04
Receipts:			
Interest Earnings	1/1/2025	920.28	
Interest Earnings	2/1/2025	1,049.53	
Interest Earnings	3/1/2025	844.08	
Total Beginning Cash Balance and Receipts			<u>\$ 315,059.93</u>
Disbursements:			
AD AU A2500927564 Stratiscope - December 2024	1/7/2025	8,333.33	
AD AU A2501078662 Stratiscope - Transport Committee Lunch Jan 2025	2/9/2025	186.88	
AD AU A2501087948 Stratiscope - January 2025	2/11/2025	8,333.33	
AD AU A2501157773 Stratiscope - GoDaddy for Seb Hosting Feb 2025	2/23/2025	467.28	
AD AU A2501204036 Stratiscope - February 2025	3/5/2025	8,333.33	
AD AU A2501309007 Stratiscope - Mobility Academy Session 1 Mar 2025	3/25/2025	54.50	
Total Disbursements			<u>\$ 25,708.65</u>
Cash Balance, March 31, 2025			<u>\$ 289,351.28</u>

Prepared by May Lam
Los Angeles County
Department of Auditor-Controller
Accounting Division
ML 4/1/2025

H:\Special Funds\Special Funds Unit\JOINT POWERS AUTHORITIES\SFVCOG\SFVCOG - Reports\Reports FY24-25\FY25 SFVCOG Quarterly Reports\Q3 '2025



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: April 8, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director

RE: **SFVCOG Metro Streets & Freeways Committee Appointee**

RECOMMENDATION

Appoint Wendell Johnson, Public Works Director for the City of San Fernando, as an Appointee for the Metro Streets and Freeways Committee.

BACKGROUND

The SFVCOG Board has the responsibility to appoint members and designees to various committees within the SFVCOG and as well as to external boards and committees to represent the SFVCOG's interest. There is currently a vacancy for the SFVCOG appointee to the Metro Streets and Highways committee. Wendell Johnson, Director of Public Works for the City of San Fernando, has indicated an interest in taking on this responsibility and serving the SFVCOG as its appointee to this committee.

Biography:

Wendell Johnson, P.E.
Public Works Director, City of San Fernando
Appointed: November 2023

Wendell Johnson, joined the City of San Fernando in November of 2023 as their Public Works Director where he is responsible for the City's infrastructure which includes Streets, Parks, Buildings, Urban Forestry, Storm Water System, Sewer and Water System. Wendell first came to the San Fernando Valley as a part of one of the many recovery teams for the Northridge Earthquake. Mr. Johnson has more than 20 years of experience with water resources and has worked for various Municipalities, Water Districts and Tribes in South California including West Basin Municipal Water District, City Torrance, City of Lomita, and City of Compton.



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: April 10, 2025

TO: Stephanie Wiggins, LA Metro CEO

ADDRESS: 1 Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012

FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director

RE: Support for MAT (Metro Active Transport) Program, Cycle 2 gap funding for the LA RiverWay in the San Fernando Valley

Dear Stephanie Wiggins,

The San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG) is proud to write a letter of support for the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering's (BOE) request for funds from the MAT (Metro Active Transport) Program, Cycle 2 for gap funding for the construction of approximately three miles of an extension of the LA RiverWay active transportation off-street pathway along the Los Angeles River in the West San Fernando Valley from Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard. This section is referred to as Segments 1 + 2 of the Los Angeles River Bikeway and Greenway San Fernando Valley Completion Project.

Segments 1 + 2 of the multi-use path will seamlessly integrate with existing sections of the LA RiverWay, as well as an on-street network of proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements. Fourteen access points will provide safe and direct connections for the surrounding community as well as to regional destinations including Reseda Park, Reseda High School, and the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, and finally, via existing Class I facilities on Balboa Boulevard to the Balboa G Line Station.

The SFVCOG and its constituent governments worked very intentionally during the Measure M process to fully program our Measure M dollars. This is the reason why the SFVCOG does not have any Measure M Multi-year Subregional Program dollars: we have assigned all our funds to the projects of highest importance to the San Fernando Valley. The completion of the LA River Way was one of these Measure M projects, with \$60M committed towards this goal in Measure M. Similar to other Measure M projects, more than \$60M will ultimately be needed to complete the LA River Way in the San Fernando Valley. For Segments 1 + 2, after \$24M from Measure M, \$18.6M from the state Active Transportation Program Cycle 4, \$5.3M in city funds, and \$1.4M from other funds, \$17M is still needed to complete the project.

It should be noted that the LA River Way has been an LA28 priority since the inception of LA28 planning, being included in the 28 x 28 initiative. Metro determined that the payment of \$60M in Measure M funds for the "LA River Bikepath" in the San Fernando Valley Subregion was sufficient to deem the LA River Way "complete" in the San Fernando Valley for purposes of the LA28 Games, and as such left the segment off the MCP. However the LA

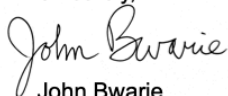
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The LA River Way, West San Fernando Valley Gap Closure will provide the following benefits for the neighborhood and region:

- A direct off-street active transportation connection to the Sepulveda Basin and its venues for LA28 for the West Valley communities of Canoga Park, Winnetka, and Reseda, as well as network connections for the rest of the West Valley.
- An integrated 8-80 active transportation network weaving together a system of neighborhood parks, schools, transit, jobs and other community amenities.
- A safe and direct alternative to travelling on high-speed east-west arterials (e.g. Victory Boulevard and Vanowen Street) for people walking or biking.
- An increased share of trips made by biking and walking, which will improve public health and air quality.
- FLM connections to the Metro Rail and BRT network via existing Class I facilities along Balboa Boulevard to the Balboa G Line Station.
- Progress towards completion of the 13-mile San Fernando Valley portion of the LA River Way, as well as the continuous 51-mile LA River Way, spanning from the San Fernando Valley southeast to Long Beach. The completed LA River Way will create a backbone for active transportation and transform the Los Angeles region.

Thank you for your support of BOE's MAT Cycle 2 Letter of Interest. We are really excited to see this project move forward. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at: john@sfvcog.org

Sincerely,



John Bwarie
Executive Director
SFVCOG

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San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: April 9, 2025
TO: SFVCOG Board
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: **Transportation Committee Recommendation on AVL and Regional Rail Prioritization**

RECOMMENDATION:

Corridor Prioritization:

Adopt the Transportation Committee's recommendation that the SFVCOG take a formal position and advocate for Metro and SCAG to prioritize the Metrolink Antelope Valley Line (AVL) corridor through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) applications and other funding sources, especially for projects in the Metro Connect Plan (MCP) or those that can be completed by 2028.

Safety Enhancements:

Support the inclusion of a safety focus within AVL-related advocacy by identifying and prioritizing safety improvements along the AVL corridor, particularly at-grade crossings.

BACKGROUND

At the April 7, 2025 SFVCOG Transportation Committee meeting, the committee reviewed current regional rail needs and gaps and discussed the importance of advancing strategic investments along the AVL and other vital corridors to support regional mobility, sustainability goals, and equity in transportation access. METro and Metrolink both presented the status of projects along the corridor, noting a \$278mil shortfall with only about \$200mil of nearly \$480mil needed.

The Committee emphasized that the AVL corridor is well-positioned for capital investment and service enhancements, and should be prioritized in Metro and SCAG's planning and funding strategies, especially ahead of the 2028 Olympic Games.

The AVL in particular remains a longstanding SFVCOG priority. The AVL Capital and Service Improvements Project is designed to improve service frequency, reduce congestion, and enhance travel reliability between the San Fernando Valley and northern Los Angeles County.

In addition to corridor prioritization, the Committee highlighted the importance of improving safety along the AVL corridor, particularly at-grade crossings. These improvements are essential to ensure safer and more accessible platforms for all users and should be integrated into any funding or planning discussions.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

On a motion by Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean, seconded by Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi, with an amendment offered by Mehmet Berker, the Committee unanimously approved a recommendation that:

- Metro should prioritize CMAT projects along the AVL for completion by 2028.
- Metro and SCAG should seek CMAQ funding and other sources for AVL and other identified corridors.
- The SFVCOG Board formally adopted a position to prioritize regional rail projects along the AVL corridor in regional and state planning efforts.

Board Report - Project Update for Antelope Valley Line (AVL) Capital and Service Improvements

On a second motion by Chair Councilmember McLean, seconded by Alternate Mehmet Berker, the Committee approved an additional recommendation that:

- The SFVCOG Board includes a focus on safety improvements along the AVL corridor, particularly at grade crossings and platform areas, in all advocacy and planning efforts related to the AVL.
- Advocating for safety enhancements which is important for maintaining public confidence and usability of the regional rail system.

CURRENT POSITIONS

SFVCOG has prioritized closing service gaps along the AVL to support bi-directional frequency. In its 2024 Strategic Plan, the SFVCOG again affirmed this goal and identified AVL improvements as a regional advocacy priority. This new recommendation builds on that foundation and aligns with SFVCOG's efforts with pending Metro and SCAG funding opportunities.

Board Report - Project Update for Antelope Valley Line (AVL) Capital and Service Improvements



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: April 8, 2025
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: **FY 2025-2026 Budget**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026

BACKGROUND

Section 21 of the SFVCOG JPA Agreement states:

The Board shall adopt a budget annually prior to July 1st of each calendar year by a super majority vote. The Board may at any time amend the budget, by a super majority vote, to incorporate additional income and disbursements that might become available to the SFVCOG for its purposes during a fiscal year.

The proposed budget reflects a sustained revenue stream of \$120,000 based on current dues structure, plus \$5000 in sponsorship anticipated from events and activities. This budget reflects the priorities and work program adopted for the 2025 calendar year by the Board and is consistent with previously adopted budgets, closely mirroring last year's adopted budget with one exception.

With the passage of Measure A, the allocation to the SFVCOG for homeless coordination funds is going through direct allocation processes for member cities, and so this line-item will no longer be part of the SFVCOG budget. (For the past six years, the SFVCOG has received an annual \$30,000 County grant for homelessness coordination.)

Attachment: Proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget

ATTACHMENT

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS				
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026				
		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Adopted	Proposed	
		Budget	Budget	Difference
REVENUES				
	Member Dues	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -
	Grants	30,000.00		\$ -30,000
	Sponsorship/Donations	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 155,000	\$ 125,000	\$ -
EXPENDITURES				
	Audit	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -
	Incidental Expenses	500	500	\$ -
	Management Services			
	Contract	100,000	100,000	\$ -
	Mobility Workshop	5,000	5,000	\$ -
	Mobility Academy	1,000	1,000	\$ -
	Mobility Academy 2.0	-	-	\$ -
	Office & Meeting S			\$ -
	Parking fees	250	250	\$ -
	Postage	100	100	\$ -
	Printing	1,900	1,900	\$ -
	Travel (incl. taking members to Sacramento)	5,000	5,000	\$ -
	Website Hosting	300	300	\$ -
	Meeting Fees/Registrations	250	250	\$ -
	VMT Model License with ESRI + AWS	2,190	2,190	\$ -
	Homeless Services (Contract with LA County)	30,000	0	\$ -30,000
	Miscellaneous (Contingency Reserve)	1,510	1,510	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 155,000	\$ 125,000	\$ -30,000



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: April 8, 2025
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: **FY25-26 Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDATION

Determine locations and adopt a regular meeting schedule for FY 25-26.

BACKGROUND

The SFVCOG Board meeting is quarterly on the second Monday at 10am, as a time that avoids conflicts with members' other standing board and committee meetings including Metro, Metrolink, city council meetings, and SCAG Region Council, to name a few. This ensures a quorum for SFVCOG Board actions and an anticipated schedule to plan for.

As is our practice, the Board will rotate around the region to host every other meeting in one of the member cities.

Proposed Schedule:

July 14, 2025: Burbank
October 13, 2025: Santa Clarita
January 12, 2026: Glendale
April 13, 2026: San Fernando