



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, October 21, 2021 — 1:30 p.m.

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL IN TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING**

Please click the link below to watch or listen to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85915311212?pwd=d3JvK0w2T014bUxrV0pIQmNjWkhwUT09>

Passcode: 638661

Or call by telephone:

Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 859 1531 1212#

****The meeting will open at 1:15pm to allow testing of the system.****

You may submit public comment by email to john@sfvkog.org or by mail to:

SFVCOG

10945 Burbank Blvd

North Hollywood, CA 91601

Written public comment or requests to speak must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting and will be provided to all members.

Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

Correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Vice-Chair: Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

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

Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes, City of Burbank

Councilmember Ara Najarian, City of Glendale

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles

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

Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nury Martinez, 6th District, City of Los Angeles

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

Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles

SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office

SFVCOG Executive Director: John Bwarie

Counsel: Shan Thever, Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita at 1:35 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

John Bwarie, Executive Director, called the roll.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (9 Members):

Present: Lex Olbrei for Chair Monica Rodriguez

**Vice-Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes
Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
John Popoch for Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield
(joined meeting after roll call.)
Jay Greenstein for Councilmember Paul Koretz
Eric Moody for Councilmember John Lee
Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza**

**Absent: Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Councilmember Ara Najarian
Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez**

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Jess Talamantes

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Prior to Public Comments, Vice-Chair McLean provided a brief announcement regarding AB 361, legislation signed by Governor Newsome which allows the continuance of Brown Act meetings via teleconferencing. Per the Board of Supervisor's instructions, each commission, committee, task force, etc., shall set a meeting within 30 days to determine if it intends to continue meetings via teleconference or if they will resume in person. Executive Director Bwarie was instructed to set a meeting within 30 days for that purpose.

Rainbow Yeung, South Coast AQMD, addressed the Council and reported that the Hybrid and Zero Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project will reopen the voucher request at 10:00 a.m. on October 28, 2021 for approx. \$62 million funding on a first come first serve basis. She also reported the following:

- **The Governing Board approved a \$250,000 award from the California Air Resources Board to help create Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for vulnerable populations, an incentive pilot program as part of AB 836 that will provide portable air filters to organizations and agencies who can quickly establish centers in vulnerable communities. The centers will be temporary while wildfires and other events impact air quality.**
- **The Governing Board approved a \$250,000 rebate for the Residential Electric Lawnmower Rebate Program, and a \$250.00 rebate for the Residential Electric Vehicle Recharging Program. Low-income residents may receive up to \$500.00.**
- **There will be an Environmental Justice Conference held at the Ontario Convention Center on October 27, 2021, and will be held as a hybrid format, in person and virtually, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Keynote speaker.**
- **The Check Before You Burn Program will resume from November 1, 2021 through February 2022.**
- **Any businesses that are not familiar with the new warehouse compliance rule should contact the South Coast AQMD for information. (essentially warehouse operators must earn a specific number of points [called WAIRE Points] to offset the number of truck trip to and from the warehouses under their control.)**

Jefferson Rosa submitted a written comment informing of LA Metro's virtual community meeting for the I-5 North County Enhancements Project, on October 27, 2021. For a copy of the full comments, contact sfvcog.org.

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

Review and Approve July 29, 2021 Board of Directors' Special Meeting Minutes Recommended Action: *Approve Minutes.*

On motion of Vice Mayor Talamantes, seconded by Sahag Yedelian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian (Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Councilmember Ara Najarian, Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman, and Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez being absent), the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG) approved the July 29, 2021 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Review FY 2020-21 Financials from January 1 through March 30, 2021. Recommended Action: *Receive and File Financial Report*

On motion of Vice Mayor Talamantes, seconded by Sahag Yedelian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian (Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Councilmember Ara Najarian, Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman, and Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez being absent), the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG) Received and Filed the Financial Report from January 1 through March 30, 2021.

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

Chair's Report - Monica Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Board.
Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

There was none.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

Executive Director John Bwarie reported that virtual meetings will continue through the end of the year. Also, a Special Meeting for the

purpose of Strategic Planning will be scheduled in December. More information will be forthcoming.

9. HOMELESS COORDINATION REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from Homelessness Coordinator

Executive Director John Bwarie provided a brief overview of the Homeless Coordination Report. Regular monthly meetings are taking place with city staff and the homeless coordinator in an effort to share information for opportunities for funding and various strategies regarding the homeless. Two seats were assigned for COGs for the Blue-Ribbon Commission on LAHSA. The two COGs selected were San Gabriel and South Bay, and the COGs are meeting regularly. The meetings are open to members of the SFVCOG, elected and staff, and concerns regarding COG regions can be addressed at the meetings.

Executive Bwarie informed that the relaunching of the Mobility Academy in the new year is under consideration as well as the workshop.

Vice-Mayor Talamates voiced his concern regarding the focus of the Blue-Ribbon Commission discussions that appear to be specifically focused on San Gabriel and South Bay and stated that the issues regarding the San Fernando Valley are not heard. Vice Chair McLean concurred, and Executive Director Bwarie indicated that he will make these concerns known to the Blue-Ribbon Commission.

John Popoch voiced his concern that it may be more effective if the SFVCOG became involved in the Blue-Ribbon Commission meetings regarding LAHSA as the full COG, and not as individual cities or regions. Executive Bwarie suggested an ad-hoc committee be formed to present recommendations to the full Board regarding this issue, and discussion ensued.

After discussion, it was determined that under the Strategic Planning Session the following topics would be addressed:

- Best practices from other COGs;**
- Homelessness; (with possible formation of an ad hoc committee)**
- Mobility 21**

CLOSED SESSION

10. PERSONNEL MATTER

Performance Evaluation of Executive Director Services, provide by Stratiscope, through John Bwarie
(The Board may recess to Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)(2)).

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:16 p.m. with no reportable action.

OPEN SESSION

11. PERSONNEL AGREEMENT (Page 21)

Discussion and consideration of action to amend Executive Director Services Agreement or take any other action as decided by SFVCOG.

Recommended Action: Exercise option to extend one year from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022, or take any other requested action thereto as directed by the SFVCOG.

On motion of Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Kuehl, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza, (Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Councilmember Ara Najarian, John Popoch for Councilmember Bloomenfield, Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman, and Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez being absent), the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG) approved the amendment to extend the Executive Director Service Agreement for one year from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022.

12. METRO UPDATES

- a. Update on NoHo to Pasadena BRT (Presentation)

Recommended Action: *Consideration and possible action by the Board.*

David Meger, Senior Executive Officer, Metro, presented an update on the NoHo to Pasadena BRT project indicating that they are entering the NextGen for the Orange Line BRT project in the Valley. He also informed that through Measure M, there are two major projects taking place: 1) Sepulveda Pass project which will begin their environmental studies to ease the congestion along the Pass; and 2) the Second Generation BRT project that will connect the North San Fernando

Valley to the San Gabriel Valley. Currently there is no high-capacity bus route available along the 134 Freeway that sees 600,000 trips a day. The new BRT system will connect the two Valleys from Chatsworth to Pasadena, then on through Azusa and ultimately to Montclair and the San Bernardino County Line.

Scott Hartwell, Transportation Planning Manager, Metro, provided an update on the Measure M BRT presenting the following highlights:

- Measure M Project currently has \$267 million in Measure M & SB1 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds. The Final EIR is currently being worked on. The proposed project was approved with refinements to the Eagle Rock, Burbank, and Glendale, by the Metro Board in May 2021.
- As the preparation of the Final EIR is underway, there are several sections of project advancing through design including North Hollywood, Glendale and Pasadena. Mr. Hartwell reviewed the minor changes to the route in Burbank along Olive and reviewed the bus lanes in North Hollywood from Vineland Avenue to Lankershim Blvd., highlighting the inclusion of a cycle track along the route.

Mr. Hartwell also reviewed the Project Refinements in Burbank and highlighted the following:

- **Minor reroute in Burbank Media District:**
 - New station proposed at Alameda Ave/Naomi St.
- **BRT to operate in mixed-flow over Olive Ave. Bridge and along Burbank portion of Glenoaks Blvd.**
 - Lake St. station, including some first/last mile improvements, will provide connection to Metrolink
- **Optional station at Olive Ave/Verdugo Ave is now permanent**
- **Includes two design options: Curb-running and Side-Running:**
 - **Curb-running**
 - ✓ Removes parking
 - ✓ Preserves all travel lanes
 - ✓ Some sidewalk narrowing needed
 - **Side-Running**
 - ✓ Preserves parking
 - ✓ Removes one travel lane in in direction

- ✓ No sidewalk narrowing needed
- ✓ Fewer BRT conflicts with vehicles

**Both options meet project goals and objectives, and advance equity
Other bus services, including BurbankBus.**

Mr. Hartwell reviewed the refinements to the Glendale Route that consists of a median-running route along Glenoaks Blvd to Central Ave; mixed-traffic and side-running on Central Ave. to Broadway; and curb and side-running along Broadway to Eagle Rock

The Project Includes 8 BRT stations including north side of Glenoaks at Alameda and potential improvements to existing bike lanes on Glenoaks Blvd.

Next Steps

- **Late 2021/Early 2022: release Final EIR to public; Metro Board to approve Final EIR and certify Final EIR**
- **Continue advancing design during Preliminary Engineering**
- **Opening year per Measure M: 2024**

Vice Mayor Talamantes voiced his concern regarding the project refinement options provided for Burbank specifically along Olive Ave. He indicated that both options would be detrimental to businesses and residents and requested that a center lane for the buses be considered. Mr. Meger indicated that there is not adequate room for a center-running lane configuration, and Mr. Hartwell added that that bus lanes can be removed if it becomes a hinderance to the community. Vice Mayor Talamantes also voiced his concern regarding creating a dedicated lane for the 1.3 miles stretch as opposed to mixed-flow lanes. Additionally, Vice Mayor Talamantes requested that Option 1 be removed and a third option be considered to include mixed-flow lanes for the Burbank Design Option, and discussion ensued.

After discussion, on motion of Vice Mayor Talamantes, seconded by John Popoch for Councilmember Blumenfield, the request for the removal of Option 1 (Curb-Running lanes) for the 1.3 miles stretch on the Olive Blvd. BRT route in Burbank and replaced with a mixed-flow route in the Project design failed by the following vote:

**AYES: Vice Jess Mayor Talamantes
John Popoch for Councilmember Blumenfield**

**Eric Moody for Councilmember Lee
Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza
Vice-Chair Marsha McLean**

NOES: None

**ABSTAINIONS: Lexi Olbrei for Chair Monica Rodriguez
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Kuehl
Sahag Yedelian for Councilmember Krekorian
Jay Greenstein for Councilmember Koretz**

**ABSENT: Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger,
Councilmember Ara Najarian,
Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman,
Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez**

- b. Update on Fareless System Initiative (Presentation)
Recommended Action: Consideration and possible action by the Board.**

Devon Deming, Metro, presented an overview of Metro’s Fareless System Initiative (FSI), which was approved unanimously by the Metro Board Members in May 2021, and includes the following requirements:

- **Streamline, efficient application and administration**
- **Cost-sharing agreements with K-12 districts and community college**
- **Maintaining existing agreements between colleges and transit agencies**
- **Identifying a new funding source**

Ms. Deming provided background for Phase 1 for K-12 and the community colleges, to increase ridership. The cost-sharing for District K-12 Partnerships is \$3.00 per student per year for all students in the districts and includes:

- **Distribution of free TAP Cards through District**
- **Unlimited rides on all participating transit agencies in LA County**
- **The Program would cover passes for homeless, students, foster youth, special education, juvenile transition, attendance improvement and other programs.**

- **The potential of revenue increased due to improved attendance.**

54 districts have expressed interest in becoming partners representing 1,362 schools, 832,976 students and a cost-sharing revenue of \$2.5 million a year.

13. SFVCOG Strategic Planning Session

Recommended Action: *Set a special meeting of the Board to engage in an online strategic planning session.*

A special meeting for a Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A special meeting to comply with the 30-day review of continuance of teleconferencing meetings is scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

14. BOARDMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Eric Moody announced his retirement from the City of Los Angeles and indicated that he would no longer be the alternate for Councilmember Lee. The Board extended their well wishes to Mr. Moody.

Executive Director John Bwarie was instructed to poll the Board Members regarding the formation of an ad hoc committee for the purpose of researching the topic of homelessness.

15. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

January 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Public Comments: At this time members of the public can address the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors (Board) regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency that are not separately listed on this agenda, subject to time restrictions, by filling out a Public Comment Card and submitting that card to the Secretary. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called

for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

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.

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