

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT/ORANGE LINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
August 12, 2020
Teleconference Meeting via Zoom or by Phone

CALL TO ORDER

Eco-Rapid Transit -Chair Karina Macias called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM online and on the phone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pedro Aceituno, Board Member, City of Bell Gardens led the assembly in the salute of the flag.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Authority Board Members:

Karina Macias, Chair, Councilmember, City of Huntington Park
Ali Sajjad Taj, Vice Chair, Mayor, City of Artesia
Sean Ashton, Board Secretary, Councilmember, City of Downey
Vrej Agajanian, Board Treasurer, Mayor, City of Glendale
Silvia Martinez, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Bell
Pedro Aceituno, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Bell Gardens
José R. Gonzales, Vice-Mayor, City of Cudahy
Frank Quintero, Alternate Board Member, Hollywood Burbank Airport
Alondra Olmos, Board Member, Planning Commissioner, City of Maywood
Maria Davila, Board Member, Mayor, City of South Gate

Others:

Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit
Karen Heit, Deputy Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit
Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kevin de León, Councilmember Elect, Los Angeles City Council
Laura Friedman, Assembly Member, California State Assembly
Martin Reyes, Staff, Supervisor Hilda Solis
William Rawlings, City Manager Representative, City Manager, City of Artesia
Karen Lee, Management Analyst, City of Artesia
Nancy Pfeffer, Gateway Cities COG, Executive Director
Nancy Michali, Gateway Cities COG Consultant
Mark Dierking, Metro
Joanne Kumamoto, Little Tokyo BID
Alan Kumamoto, Little Tokyo BID
David Ikegami, Little Tokyo Business Association
Estela Lopez, Executive Director, Downtown Industrial BID
Lillian Burkenheim, Community Planning and Development Director
Allyn Rifkin, Transportation Planner/Engineer, Eco-Rapid Transit
Walter Beaumont, Community Planning Staff, Eco-Rapid Transit
Cristina Quintero, Administration, Michael Kodama Planning Consultants

NOTE: At this point in the meeting, the Chair moved up Items 6, 7 and 8.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2020**
- b. Approval of Warrant Register dated August 12, 2020**
- c. Approval of Treasurer’s Report for the period of July 2020**

MOTION: Pedro Aceituno, Board Member, City of Bell Gardens, moved to approve the Consent Calendar, Ali Sajjad Taj, Vice Chair, Mayor, City of Artesia, seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE JANICE HAHN, SUPERVISOR FOR THE 4TH DISTRICT OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RE: ECO-RAPID TRANSIT AND THE WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH

Ali Sajjad Taj, Vice Chair, Mayor, City of Artesia introduced Janice Hahn, Supervisor for the 4th District of Los Angeles County and Member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board (METRO). Ms. Hahn noted that Eco-Rapid Transit as an organization has been around for quite some time and she thanked the Board Members for their leadership in making this project happen. The West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) project has been actively planned before she became a Supervisor. She stressed the need to work together to make this project happen in our political lifetime.

However, a local city within the WSAB corridor was recently asking for major changes in the WSAB project alignment and design. The meeting was “hostile” according to the Supervisor as staff for the city threatened to sue if their demands were not met. The Supervisor went on to discuss the larger, bigger issues that face METRO in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Supervisor Hahn noted that METRO is facing a financial shortfall of \$1.8 billion this fiscal year due to the loss of fare revenue and their portion of sales taxes generated in the County. The fiscal situation was described as dire and we must stay vigilant or others may want to shift funds to other Metro projects.

In May, Metro CEO Phil Washington presented a cost savings plan to the METRO Board. Mr. Washington put the WSAB project in a category of projects that might be subject to work being stopped or delayed. However, Supervisor Hahn introduced a motion to remove that classification from the WSAB project and the motion was approved by the METRO Board.

Supervisor Hahn asked that Eco-Rapid Transit Members support the current effort to have the WSAB environmental review process proceed according to schedule (Spring 2021 with a goal of getting a Federal Transit Administration Record of Decision in 2022) and that would have the project shovel ready in 2023 leaving five-years to complete the project before the 2028 Olympics.

As designed, the project is still \$2.5 billion short of full funding and we still need the P3, state and federal funding to complete the project on-time. Supervisor Hahn stated again that at this late date local municipalities within the WSAB Corridor that request major changes to the alignment or design of the project stand to threaten the viability of the entire project from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles. She asked that WSAB Corridor cities provide constructive feedback on the design and construction of the line and provide expedited review of planning and construction documents. She also asked for help to streamline local permit processes, attend the City Manager TAC meetings and to stay united.

ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE KEVEN de LEÓN, FORMER CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE PRESIDENT AND COUNCILMEMBER ELECT FOR THE 14TH DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES RE: ECO-RAPID TRANSIT, WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH AND THE 14TH COUNCIL DISTRICT UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CITY MANAGERS REPORT

Ali Sajjad Taj, Vice Chair, Mayor, City of Artesia introduced Kevin de León, former California State Senate President and Councilmember elect for the 14th District of the City of Los Angeles. Mr. de León noted that we are at an inflection point in the nation, state, and the region. He believes that now is the time when we all join together and help each other. We need to work together to bring this project together from Artesia to Union Station. Mr. de León noted that he is a strong supporter and sees the WSAB project as a great opportunity to improve the lives of the residents in the corridor with respect to economic development and the provision of new housing options. The former State Senator stated that he is committed to working with Eco-Rapid Transit member cities to get the WSAB project built by 2028. He stated that the larger vision he has is to move people and goods more efficiently will bring both economic benefits and a reduction in congestion and pollution.

Frank Quintero, Alternate Board Member, Hollywood Burbank Airport thanked Former Senate Pro Tem de León for his support of the WSAB and noted that for the Northern Corridor, the City of Glendale and the Hollywood Burbank Airport would benefit greatly with a connection to future light-rail and high-speed rail. Residents throughout the region would benefit as they would have transit access to the jobs and economic benefits provided in the Northern Corridor. Ali Taj, Mayor and Vice-Chair of Eco-Rapid Transit thanked Former Senate Pro Tem de León and added that this is important for the entire corridor to work together to create economic development, jobs and housing. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

ITEM 8 – PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE LAURA FRIEDMAN, CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR THE 43RD DISTRICT RE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT, HIGH SPEED RAIL AND OTHER RAIL TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS

Vrej Agajanian, Board Treasurer, Mayor, City of Glendale introduced Assembly Member Laura Friedman, 43rd District of the California State Assembly. Assembly Member Friedman stated that she believes public transportation and housing go together. Traffic and congestion are the reason to build transit. Reduce sprawl and pollution. Assembly Member Friedman supports the construction of the California High Speed Rail project. She wants to bring it to Southern California and sees that high speed rail can create transportation hubs to serve our communities. For example the new terminal at Hollywood Burbank Airport with a new high speed rail station.

However, she thinks we need to plan better and now is asking for the project to be reevaluated to re-think the nature of the project. Assembly Member Friedman believes that the current plan

to build an initial segment between Bakersfield and Merced will operate at such low levels given the exorbitant cost that it will be nigh impossible to have the state's taxpayers foot the bill for the rest of the system to connect San Francisco to Los Angeles and eventually to San Diego.

She says that the latest California High-Speed Rail (CAHSR) business plan is flawed and overstated potential ridership on the system significantly and this was intentional to further a political objective according to the Assembly Member. Rather than the 8.8 million riders, the net new ridership for the CAHSR Bakersfield to Merced segment it really is about 2 million riders, nearly what is carried on the route currently and does not require them to transfer from one system to another.

This should be about train ridership and building public support for the statewide high speed rail system which can be done if we create ridership now. Therefore, Assembly Member Friedman and others in the State Legislature are advocating a plan to create a more efficient high speed rail system while preparing for the ultimate statewide high speed rail project. For now, we can run clean-diesel high-speed rail trains and take the estimated \$5 billion savings to invest in other parts of the state to improve current rail connections to the Bay Area and to the Los Angeles Basin. Metrolink and their 1.8 million riders annually would benefit from improved connections and have estimated that their ridership would double as the improvements would increase speed and frequency of service. In closing, the Assembly Member requested that the Eco-Rapid Transit Board Members take a position and write letters of support for the proposed changes to the CAHSR plan.

Frank Quintero, Alternate Board Member, Hollywood Burbank Airport thanked Assembly Member Friedman and agreed that a double track link from Bakersfield to Burbank would greatly improve the ability for residents in the Central Valley to have high speed transit access to the Northern Corridor. Vice Chair Ali Taj agreed and pledged 100% support from our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors already has voted to back the proposal led by Assembly Member Friedman, Assembly Member Rivas and Speaker Rendon.

ITEM 9 – UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ECO-RAPID TRANSIT NORTHERN CORRIDOR AND CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

Michael Kodama noted that the Board of Directors voted to support the position of Assembly Member Friedman and voiced its opinion in a letter to the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and also voted to support AB 3213 (Rivas).

In addition, staff has submitted a letter commenting on the CHSRA Draft EIR/EIS for the Burbank to Los Angeles section including comments related to potential significant environmental impacts related to the proposed Hollywood Burbank Airport High Speed Rail Station. Mr. Kodama related how the current plan is to bulldoze a project under construction and pave the site for a large parking lot without consideration for local economic benefits or connectivity. Lastly, Mr. Kodama stated that the connections to Los Angeles Union Station and the potential impacts to the WSAB line should be reviewed further. Attached for review by the Board of Directors is a report from the Mineta Transportation Institute regarding Intermodal Connectivity at California's High Speed Rail Stations. This report includes a section on the potential of the Hollywood Burbank Airport high speed rail station which did not seem to be included in the CHSRA environmental analysis.

MOTION: Frank Quintero, Alternate Board Member, Hollywood Burbank Airport, moved to receive and file the Item, Pedro Aceituno, Board Member, City of Bell Gardens, seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 10 – UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ECO-RAPID TRANSIT SUB-COMMITTEES

Michael Kodama, Executive Director noted that the Board has taken a position to eliminate the Construction Mitigation Sub-Committee. The remaining sub-committees are:

- Planning, Programming and Funding; and
- Legislative.

There followed some discussion regarding the membership, chairmanship and vacancies of the sub-committees. It was determined as follows:

The new Chair of the Planning, Programming and Funding Sub-Committee would be José R. Gonzalez;

The new members of the Legislative Sub-Committee would be Sean Ashton, José R. Gonzalez, and Maria Davila; and

Board Member Alondra Olmos, City of Maywood would be interested participating but is concerned about time commitments but stated she would ask if the Maywood Alternate could participate.

The Board took no actions requiring a motion but did request that the item be brought back next month.

MOTION: Maria Davila, City of South Gate, moved to receive and file the Item, Sean Ashton, Board Secretary, City of Downey, seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 11 – UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT SAFETY AND SECURITY AD-HOC COMMITTEE

The ad-hoc committee is focused on Safety and Security and Ms. Laurie Guillen, Board Member, City of Paramount is the chair. Mr. Kodama indicated that with the restrictions in place due to Covid-19, it is not possible to undertake the public transit field trip as Metro is not hosting tours at this time. However, staff will continue to work with the Chair and Metro to research the issue and prepare for the field trip when it is permitted.

Board Chair Karina Macias stated that she wants staff to schedule a zoom meeting with those corridor cities that have their own police force and have the chiefs of police provide the Committee with feedback on safety. Chair Macias strongly supports efforts involve the youth within the Corridor on this issue once it is permitted.

MOTION: Maria Davila, Board Member, City of South Gate, moved to receive and file the Item, Pedro Aceituno, Board Member, City of Bell Gardens, seconded the motion. The item was approved unanimously.

ITEM 12 - UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH

Michael Kodama noted that this Item was discussed in detail during the presentations by both Supervisor Hahn and Councilmember Elect de León. Mr. Kodama stated that there is much to do in the near future to push the environmental process forward and support the efforts by the elected officials who have championed the WSAB line. Nancy Michali, Consultant to the Gateway Cities COG City Manager TAC, added in that the City Manager TAC is working on WSAB issues including the 3% local contribution which she anticipates will be discussed at the upcoming City Manager TAC meeting on September 15th.

MOTION: Maria Davila, Board Member, City of South Gate, moved to receive and file the Item, José R. Gonzalez, seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 13 – UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING METRO TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (TOD SIP)

Michael Kodama discussed the August 31, 2020 deadline to submit a TOD SIP Implementation Grant request for corridor cities that would fund implementation efforts related to six goals, primary being governance. Mr. Kodama indicated that Artesia and Huntington Park are leading this effort and the goal is to create an entity that can implement economic development strategies corridor wide.

Sylvia Martinez, Board Member, City of Bell said that in her conversation with the Director of the City of Bell that it was their understanding that the TOD SIP Grant did not allocate funds for grant administration and asked for assistance in how to address this issue. Mr. Kodama indicated that staff would follow up on this issue.

MOTION: Maria Davila, Board Member, City of South Gate, moved to receive and file the Item, José R. Gonzalez, seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 14 – UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING SB 757 (ALLEN) THAT ESTABLISHES EXPEDITED ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEDURES UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) FOR FOUR PROPOSED TRANSIT PROJECTS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO)

Michael Kodama notified the Board that SB757 is working its way through the Legislature and will have a positive impact on the WSAB project. Mr. Kodama suggested that Board Members review and support the bill upon review.

MOTION: Maria Davila, Board Member, City of South Gate, moved to direct staff to draft a letter in support of SB757 and have the draft reviewed and approved by the Chair and Vice Chair, José R. Gonzalez, seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 15 - COMMUNICATION ITEMS TO THE BOARD

No Items were presented.

ITEM 15 – COMMUNICATION ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

There were no items from the Board.

ITEM 16 - ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned in the memory of Gabriella O’Donnell and Gregory O’Donnell, the Mother and Stepfather of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, who both died recently from COVID-19 at 8:08 PM

Secretary

Attest:

Chair

Approved:

**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT
WARRANT REGISTER
(SEPTEMBER 9, 2020)**

NAME	AMOUNT
MOHAMMED ALI SAJJAD TAJ	\$100.00
SILVIA MARTINEZ	\$100.00
PEDRO ACEITUNO	\$100.00
JOSE R. GONZALEZ	\$100.00
SEAN ASHTON	\$100.00
VREJ AGAJANIAN	\$100.00
KARINA MACIAS	\$100.00
ALONDRA OLMOS	\$100.00
MARIA DAVILA	\$100.00
FRANK QUINTERO	\$100.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Admin General)	\$3,000.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Admin Grants)	\$200.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Admin Grants)	\$400.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Reimbursement)	\$509.78
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (General Fund)	\$5,000.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant funds)	\$1,125.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant funds)	\$750.00
LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (General Fund)	\$1,270.00
LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (Grant Funds)	\$550.00
ALLYN D. RIFKIN (General Fund)	\$450.00
ALLYN D. RIFKIN (Grant Funds)	\$250.00
WALTER BEAUMONT (General Funds)	\$375.00
WALTER BEAUMONT (Grant Funds)	\$592.50
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC (General Fund)	\$498.75
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC (Grant Fund)	\$140.00
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC (Grant Fund)	\$140.00
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC (Grant Fund)	\$140.00
RYAN YOUNG (General Fund)	\$1,323.08
BAILEY WONG (General Fund)	\$238.00
BAILEY WONG (Grant Fund)	\$136.00
BAILEY WONG (Grant Fund)	\$153.00
COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY	\$112.50
CLASSIC PLAN (DIRECTORS POLICY)	\$471.51
CLASSIC PLAN (GENERAL POLICY)	\$118.93
KONICA MINOLTA	\$379.17
LA FORET ADVERTISING	\$300.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$19,623.22</u>



REPORT: 9/9/2020

RUN: 9/9/2020

Check #	Invoice #	Dated	Name	Distribution	Net Amount
12100	2020-08	8/12/2020	ALI SAJJAD TAJ	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12101	2020-08	8/12/2020	SILVA MARTINEZ	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12102	2020-08	8/12/2020	PEDRO ACEITUNO	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12103	2020-08	8/12/2020	JOSE R. GONZALEZ	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12104	2020-08	8/12/2020	SEAN ASHTON	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12105	2020-08	8/12/2020	VREJ AGAJANIAN	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12106	2020-08	8/12/2020	KARINA MACIAS	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12107	2020-08	8/12/2020	ALONDRA OLMOS	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12108	2020-08	8/12/2020	MARIA DAVILA	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12111	2020-08	8/12/2020	FRANK QUINTERO	8/12/20 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12112	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Admin General)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$3,000.00
12113	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Admin Grants)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$400.00
12114	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Admin Grants)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$200.00
12115	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,000.00
12116	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$1,125.00
12117	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$750.00
12118	2020-08	8/31/2020	MICHAEL R. KODAMA(Reimbursement)	Reimbursement Board Exp/office supplies	\$509.78
12119	2020-08	8/31/2020	LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$1,270.00
12120	2020-08	8/31/2020	LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$550.00
12121	2020-08	8/31/2020	ALLYN D. RIFKIN (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$450.00
12122	2020-08	8/31/2020	ALLYN D. RIFKIN (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$250.00
12123	2020-08	8/31/2020	WALTER BEAUMONT (General Funds)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$375.00
12124	2020-08	8/31/2020	WALTER BEAUMONT (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$592.50
12125	2020-08	8/31/2020	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC	Professional Services/General Fund	\$498.75
12126	2020-08	8/31/2020	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC	Professional Services/Artesia TOD	\$140.00
12127	2020-08	8/31/2020	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$140.00
12128	2020-08	8/31/2020	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC	Professional Services/WSAB	\$140.00
12129	2020-08	8/31/2020	RYAN YOUNG (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$1,323.08
12130	2020-08	8/31/2020	BAILEY WONG (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$238.00
12131	2020-08	8/31/2020	BAILEY WONG (Grant Fund)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$136.00
12132	2020-08	8/31/2020	BAILEY WONG (Grant Fund)	Professional Services/Artesia TOD	\$153.00
12133	43573	8/7/2020	COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY	Legal Services/General Fund	\$112.50
12134	315943	9/1/2020	CLASSIC PLAN (DIRECTORS POLICY)	Insurance Fees/Directors	\$471.51
12135	317982	8/26/2020	CLASSIC PLAN (GENERAL POLICY)	iNsurance Fees/General	\$118.93
12136	36151409	8/29/2020	KONICA MINOLTA	Copy Charges/General Fund	\$379.17
12137	697	8/31/2020	LA FORET ADVERTISING	Web Maintenance/Eco-Rapid Transit	\$300.00

Total Disbursements

\$19,623.22

Void Checks

12099	**VOID**	\$0.00
12109	**VOID**	\$0.00
12110	**VOID**	<u>\$0.00</u>

Approved for payment by Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors:

\$19,623.22

**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020
(PREPARED ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2020)**

Bank of the West

Cash, beginning balance (deficit)	\$44,930.67
Receipts:	
	\$0.00
Total cash receipts	<u>\$0.00</u>
Expenditures:	
Bank fee/Positive Pay Service/Other Charges	-\$67.50
Warrants, approved on 8/12/20	<u>-\$19,208.40</u>
	<u>-\$19,275.90</u>
Cash, ending balance	<u>\$25,654.77</u>

Vrej Agajanian, Treasurer