

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Planning Directors Committee was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chair H.P. Kang, at the WRCOG Office, Citrus Conference Room.

**2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS**

**Members present:**

Adam Rush, City of Banning  
Christina Taylor, City of Beaumont  
Joanne Coletta, City of Corona  
H.P. Kang, City of Hemet, Chair  
Tamara Campbell, City of Jurupa Valley  
Richard MacHott, City of Lake Elsinore  
Cheryl Kitzerow, City of Menifee  
Patty Nevins, City of Moreno Valley  
Jarett Ramaiya, City of Murrieta  
Travis Randel, City of San Jacinto  
Matt Peters, City of Temecula  
Matt Bassi, City of Wildomar  
Jeffrey Smith, March JPA (10:24 a.m. departure)  
Jennifer Nguyen, Riverside Transit Agency

**Staff present:**

Andrew Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer  
Christopher Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning  
Christopher Tzeng, Program Manager  
Cameron Brown, Program Manager  
Elisa Laurel, Program Manager  
Daniel Soltero, Staff Analyst  
Ivana Medina, Staff Analyst  
Rachel Singer, Staff Analyst  
Kyle Rodriguez, Staff Analyst  
Suzy Nelson, Administrative Assistant  
Haley Henson, Intern

**Guests present:**

Jenny Chan, Riverside County Transportation Commission  
Kevin White, City of San Jacinto  
Tammy Seale, PlaceWorks  
Eli Krispi, PlaceWorks  
Andrea Howard, PlaceWorks  
Mike Flood, WSP

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair H.P. Kang led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**5. MINUTES** – *(San Jacinto / Lake Elsinore) 12 yes; 0 no; 2 abstention. Item 5.A was approved. The Cities of Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Norco, Perris, and Riverside, and the County of Riverside, Western Municipal Water District, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present. The Cities of Menifee and Moreno Valley abstained.*

#### **A. Summary Minutes from the December 12, 2019, Planning Directors Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.**

**Action:** 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the December 12, 2019, Planning Directors Committee meeting.*

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR** – *(San Jacinto / Banning) 14 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions. Items 6.A was approved. The Cities of Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Norco, Perris, and Riverside, and the County of Riverside, Western Municipal Water District, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.*

#### **A. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

#### **7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Resilient IE Activities Update**

Andrea Howard and Eli Krispi provided an update on the final draft of the Caltrans-funded Resilient IE Toolkit. In collaboration with the San Bernardino County Transportation Commission (SBCTA) and WRCOG, the Toolkit will provide member jurisdictions with a streamlined and cost-effective climate resiliency plan as well as help with legislative compliance. Resources within the toolkit include city-level evacuation routes with identified route hazards, a guidebook to support resilient transportation infrastructure, and a template resilience element that can be used to comply with State mandates for local planning.

Mike Flood provided an overview of two risk-based vulnerability assessment pilots that were surveyed, one being the I-10 in Ontario, near Ontario Airport, and the other being the I-15 through the Cajon Pass. WRCOG and SBCTA received a follow-up grant from Caltrans to build upon these pilots and implement for different assets. A risk-based approach can provide critical data points for stakeholders as well as a better understanding of socioeconomic impacts.

Staff and consultants are now working to address the final requirements of the grant, in addition to preparing a final project case study. Per the grant requirements, the principle components of Resilient IE will conclude by the end of February 2020 and staff will submit all invoicing and reporting requirements to Caltrans by March 2020.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

#### **B. Adoption and Implementation of Senate Bill 743**

Chris Gray provided an update on the status of the Senate Bill (SB) 743, which will require local agencies to use Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as an impact criterion when evaluating a project's transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

On November 26, 2019, a decision was published by the Third Appellate District for the California Court

of Appeals that directly addressed SB 743. The Court reached three major findings: 1) when considering issues like SB 743 and its applicability, the timing is determined by the date the document was circulated, not when it was reviewed; 2) VMT analysis is not required at this time, since the requirement does not apply until July 1, 2020; and 3) level of service (LOS) cannot be used in context of CEQA decision-making for transportation-related impacts. Based on staff's research, the first two items can be viewed in a positive light, meaning that projects are not yet required to consider VMT as a transportation impact and it verifies that the requirement does not apply until July 1, 2020. Staff finds the third conclusion to be problematic since many jurisdictions are currently evaluating projects using LOS solely as the basis for transportation impacts under CEQA. Based on this conclusion, there are on-going discussions between various CEQA attorneys, transportation consultants, and agency staff.

WRCOG recommends that each member agency consult with its legal counsel to determine the most appropriate course of action for projects which are currently in process. There is a clear agreement on one topic – VMT analysis will need to be incorporated into any environmental document circulated after July 1, 2020. Because of that WRCOG strongly recommends that each of its member agencies move forward with developing and applying VMT-based thresholds and analysis procedures. Staff has provided a sample resolution and staff report attached to the staff report.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

### **C. 2020 Legislation Update**

Chris Gray provided a summary update on current State legislation. Senate Bill (SB) 50, authored by Senator Scott Weiner of San Francisco, previously failed twice before reintroduction for a third time in 2020. This controversial bill was aimed to boost construction of housing by requiring cities and counties to allow higher density housing near job and transit centers. SB 50 did not pass through the State Senate. Senator Weiner has since stated the need to continue working on a major housing bill.

The Governor's office released the budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Some key components of the budget included housing, homelessness, transportation and infrastructure, and climate-related items.

Mr. Gray defined the housing component of the budget to include revising the Regional Housing Needs Assessment to promote and streamline housing development. The budget also recommends that the State streamline the creation of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District to fund housing and infrastructure projects. The budget included \$10 million a year for the next three years to fund policies that will support housing production and hold local jurisdictions accountable in order to remove barriers that hinder housing production in the state.

Within the Transportation and Infrastructure Budget, \$53 billion was set aside for a five-year infrastructure plan which includes \$45 billion for surface transportation.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

### **D. Updated Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines Template**

Chris Gray provided an update on the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines template which is available for use by any jurisdiction in the WRCOG subregion. The Guidelines focus on two major components: 1) Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) guidance consistent with information from the WRCOG SB 743 Implementation Pathway Study, and 2) updates to the level of service (LOS) guidelines currently being utilized in the subregion.

In addition, the Guidelines include state-of-the-practice analysis techniques for LOS assessment. TIA Guidelines in general should be updated in a manner that are easy to adjust and revise for jurisdictions to utilize for its purposes. The Guidelines references required improvements instead of historic

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) terminology in order to distinguish between CEQA and non-CEQA requirements. Lastly, the LOS naming is simplified to be more consistent with requirements in other jurisdictions statewide.

The project team will communicate its findings and present the updated Guidelines through the WRCOG standing committees and distribute such at the March Planning Directors and Public Works Committees.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

#### **E. Public Service Fellow Presentations**

Rachel Singer introduced Andrea Mares, who is currently completing her Fellowship in the City of Banning, and Haley Henson, who is completing her Fellowship with WRCOG. Each Fellow presented on their current projects that they have helped work on and shared future plans as their fourth round of the Fellowship comes to a close at the end of March 2020.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

#### **F. Grant Opportunities Summary Table**

Christopher Tzeng provided an update on the current grant opportunities available to member jurisdictions. WRCOG provides assistance to its member jurisdictions to fund local projects through the Grant Writing Assistance Program. The Program aims to strengthen the subregion's overall competitiveness for statewide funding and to provide supplemental support to member jurisdictions that can be prevented from seeking grant funds due to limited capacity and/or resources.

Mr. Tzeng surveyed the Committee to ensure effectiveness of the summary table. Members were very thankful and shared that the email that staff sends out also gets forwarded to other departments within its agency.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

### **8. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING**

Chris Gray introduced Elisa Laurel, the new Planning Program Manager.

#### **9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

#### **10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements.

**11. NEXT MEETING:** The next Planning Directors Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., at WRCOG's office located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting of the Planning Directors Committee adjourned at 11:04 a.m.