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Westwood Neighborhood Council

Approved Minutes
WRAC Mobility and Transportation Committee
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
<https://westsidecouncils.com/meetings>

1. **Call to Order and Committee Member Roll Call** – *Debbie Nussbaum (WCC), April Peterson (MVCC alt), Vic Pacheco (WLASNC), Steve Lantz (PPCC), Michael Shaw (PNC), Nickie Minor (BABCNC), Connor Webb (NWNC alt), Jeffrey Tropp (DRNC) and Selena Inouye (VNC).*
2. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda** - *none*
3. **Adoption of the Agenda & Approval of Minutes** – *February 2024 minutes adopted by a vote of 6-0-2*
4. **Special Orders**
 - a. Mobility and Transportation reports – *Jeff Khau and Sean Silva from CD11 and Jarrett Thompson from CD 5 where not available to join us.*
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Further discussion/possible action regarding [previously passed MTC motions](#): Metro Traffic Reduction Study (Congestion Pricing) motion – *Chair Inouye reviewed the process for how pending WRAC motions become WRAC positions. She explained that if a WRAC member Council does not support a pending WRAC motion, they usually don't put the motion on their Board agenda.*
 - b. Updates, further discussion, possible action regarding digital billboards: [Metro TCN](#), [STAP](#) and [IKE](#) programs – *Barbara Broide from the Westside NC, who was not able to attend this month's meeting, emailed an update stating that the Coalition for a Beautiful Los Angeles has filed a lawsuit against the Metro TCN program.*
 - c. Updates, further discussion, possible action regarding the Metro [Sepulveda Transit Corridor](#), [I-405 ExpressLanes](#) and the [Traffic Reduction Study](#) projects – *Lantz shared that Metro has eliminated option 2, the monorial option with the people mover connection to the UCLA Campus, from the 6 possible Sepulveda Transit Corridor options. [Link](#) to Metro Memorandum dated March 6, 2024 for more details. Nussbaum remarked that this option was not very ADA-friendly and was more costly than the other 5 options still being considered.*
 - d. Updates, discussion and possible action regarding the [LADOT Westside Mobility](#) project: Connect Del Rey, Santa Monica to Westwood, West LA to Del Rey, and Santa Monica to Ballona Creek corridors – *Inouye reached out to LADOT to try and make arrangements for a staff member to come and present on this project, as well as discuss the planned extension of this project into CD 5 from Ohio Ave to Westwood that Jeff Khau from CD 11 mentioned at the February MTC meeting. Webb shared that he attended the presentation of this project at a meeting of the WLASNC and asked about the extension of the project to Westwood and the UCLA Campus. LADOT staff stated that this leg of the project was not yet funded.*

6. New Business

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding new City Council mobility/transportation motions and [CFMS](#) updates since the last MTC meeting – *no items were brought up for discussion by the Committee members*
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding [Waymo's robotaxi service now starting in Los Angeles](#) from Santa Monica to Downtown LA – *Webb brought up CA SB 915, the Autonomous Vehicle Service Deployment and Data Transparency Act, which would give LA City officials the power to decide if autonomous vehicle pilot programs like this one should take place in Los Angeles. Minor shared her concerns about the accidents that autonomous vehicles have gotten. Tropp shared her concern about accidents involving cyclists and robotaxis. Specifically, she's noticed that human drivers either slow down or speed up when they encounter a cyclist, but the Waymo vehicles do neither of these things. So Tropp always lets the Waymo vehicle go first. Action item: members would like a representative from Waymo to come and speak with the Committee.*
- c. Discussion and possible action regarding [Archer Aviation's electric air taxi service out of the Santa Monica Airport beginning in 2025](#) - *Minor raised the question how this would be possible with the Santa Monica Airport closing. Tropp raised noise concerns for these vehicles while on the ground and in the air. Pacheco stated that the vehicles are electric and driven by a pilot. However, the question was raised about which regulatory agency these vehicles and this service would fall under. Nussbaum raised concerns about a similar type of aircraft with a vertical take-off having mechanical problems, as well as noise concerns based off her proximity to the UCLA Medical Center and the helicopters they use as air ambulances. Webb pointed out that the electric motors for the rotors of these new vehicles are highly reliable, and that the issue with the tilt rotor military aircrafts was with the clutch. He believes that this new service would fall under the FAA, as other private flight services do. Action item: reach out to Archer Aviation and schedule a presentation to the Committee about this new electric air taxi service.*

7. Reports

- a. Metro (Steve Lantz) – *Metro is preparing their 2028 Olympics Mobility Concept Plan. It would double the size of the Metro bus fleet. Unfortunately, Metro doesn't have the money to purchase the additional 2,700 buses needed. Metro will be relying on borrowing, renting or leasing older buses from agencies across the United States Metro staff would need to be trained on how to operate and repair these new buses. It is estimated that it will cost \$1 billion dollars to create this 2028 Olympics Metro bus network. It's a lot of work and Metro doesn't have the funds, which is causing concerns and anxiety.*

Under Garcetti's leadership, Metro had the aspirational 28 by '28 list of projects to complete by the Olympics. Now the focus is on what is feasible, affordable and can be realistically done by the Summer of 2028. To this end, some Metro Board members and staff went to Paris to see what lessons they have learned from putting together the 2024 Summer Games.

In regards to Metro's construction projects, there is a small business focused Business Interruption Fund. <https://www.metro.net/about/business-interruption-fund/> Currently the program is expanding to include businesses impacted by the construction of the 3 segments of the Purple Line expansion project.

Lastly, HBO has just purchased, and Metro approved, a one-year operating lease for \$616,000 to put a billboard up at the Culver City Expo Line station.

Q&A: Inouye asked about the corridors identified by the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) that are targeting for bus lane enhancements during the Olympics, as share by Jeff Khau from CD 11. Lantz said that Metro will be focused on their Exposition and Long Beach rail corridors during the Olympics. Inouye also asked about the funding Metro needs for their Olympics plan. Lantz stated that Metro has said they won't defer or delay their capital projects due to the Olympics. However, without funding, Metro won't be able to do the things they are discussing for the Olympics without deferring or delaying their capital projects.

Shaw asked about bus infrastructure expansion to prepare for the 2028 Olympics (the bus lanes being discussed by WSCCOG that Jeff Khau from CD 11 mentioned at the February MTC meeting.) Lantz clarified that this is the responsibility of LA and other local cities; Metro doesn't fund or provide bus lanes. Shaw also asked about the additional buses being added to the Metro fleet. Lantz elaborated that these are probably NOT going to be the clean running electric or CNG buses. And after the Olympics are over, it's possible that Metro will need to make a plan for the disposal of any buses the granting agencies don't want back.

Peterson asked about preparations Metro is making for the World Cup. Lantz replied that the goal is to have everything for the Olympics in place by the end of 2027, before the World Cup. However, without the funds needed, this goal is only aspirational.

8. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

a. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

9. Public Comment and Announcements – *Inouye shared with the Committee about CoMotion, a yearly future mobility conference held in Miami in the Spring and Los Angeles in the Fall. Tickets to the event are expensive, but Committee member might be able to get a Public Sector pass from their local Council office. CoMotion also has an e-newsletter that reports on all kinds of new and updated transportation modes, like air taxis. Sign up at <https://comotionnews.com/>*

10. Adjournment at 8:05 PM