



**Minutes**

BABCNC Virtual Traffic Committee Meeting on Zoom  
**Thursday November 12, 2020 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

1. Call to Order & Welcome to the Group: Irene Sandler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36pm
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll call: Six members were present initially; shortly thereafter **10 present & four absent.**

| Name                 | P | A | Name               | P | A |
|----------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|---|
| Irene Sandler, Chair | X |   | Robin Greenberg    | X |   |
| Larry Leisten        |   | X | André Stojka       | X |   |
| Wendy Morris         | X |   | Gail Sroloff       |   | X |
| Pamela Pierson, MD   | X |   | Patricia Templeton | X |   |
| Leslie Weisberg      |   | X | Maureen Smith      | X |   |
| Robert Schlesinger   | X |   | Joyce Page         | X |   |
| Philip Enderwood     |   | X | Maureen Levinson   | X |   |

4. Introduction of Attendees:
  - Shawn Bayliss, BABCNC At-Large Board Member & part of Bel Air Association (BAA)
  - Nicole Miner, BABCNC Representative of Benedict Canyon Association (BCA)
  - Bob Anderson from Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA)
  - Jarrett Thompson, Deputy Representative for Councilmember Paul Koretz, Council District 5
  - Gabriella Garry from Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA)
  - Greg Spotts, from LA City Bureau of Street Services / “StreetsLA”
5. Approval of November 12, 2020 Agenda: Correction by Board Administrator that as of July 2020, Patricia Murphy is no longer on the committee; Robert Schlesinger is. Robin moved, Maureen seconded; 6/0/0; approved as corrected.
6. Approval of June 9, 2020 Minutes: Moved by Wendy; seconded by Bob; 6/0/0; approved as written.
7. General Public Comments
8. Chair’s Report – Irene Sandler
9. **Representatives of Elected City Officials/Agencies**
  - **Jarrett Thompson, Deputy Representative for Councilmember Paul Koretz, Council District 5**
  - Regarding cameras, license plate reading cameras, he noted that auto racing is a problem all over the city now.
  - They are working with LAPD to get decoy cars and are looking into speed bumps.
  - Bel Air Hills Association (BAHA) met regarding the cameras, which, by state law, have to be on private property.
  - He is communicating with someone regarding delineators to address donuts and racing, to be investigated by DOT.
  - They are losing senior staff, 1,300 individuals are taking early retirement.
  - Head of Urban Forestry is leaving us and LADOT is completely restructuring.
  - He noted that there is a chance that district offices will be “a thing of the past.”
  - Street Use Investigator, Antoine, is leaving, staged out until May.
  - [Patricia Templeton joined the meeting at 6:51 pm.]*
  - Member Templeton thanked Jarrett Thompson, the Mayor’s offices and Bureau of Street Services/StreetsLA, that the City is fixing the bumps created by tree roots that caused the road to buckle. The city is cutting down the trees this weekend; expect a full road closure on Roscomare Saturday & Sunday from 7:00 to 4:00pm.
  - **Greg Spotts is one of four Assistant Directors at Bureau of Street Services, “StreetsLA”**
  - Mr. Spotts was sent to speak to this committee, per our last-minute request of Adel Hagekhalil, Executive Director and General Manager with the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA), to answer questions.

- Chair Sandler related that this is in regards to the street bumps from tree roots, e.g., 2613 & 2619 Roscomare.
- Member Templeton related that the trees will be cut down followed by resurfacing of that section of the road, and that Jarrett Thompson has been coordinating and working with Street Services to get this scheduled.
- She explained that a year ago, the city sent notifications to the homeowner adjacent to these street bumps, to cut down the trees and to repair the road. The homeowner had a survey done showing this was on the city's property. They came to BAHA and the city eventually determined that it was the city's responsibility. CD5 is paying for this and the resurfacing will come from their annual budget. Member Templeton noted that another place on Roscomare needs this and she does not want the homeowners do not get these notices. She would like to know the policy.
- Mr. Spotts explained that there is no city property. If you are a homeowner, you own the street half way up the road. He noted it is confusing about what easement might exist there if not used to build a sidewalk on the hillside roads. You have to go into NavigateLA and look at the parcel maps to figure it out. While his department does not go out looking for people to cite, if there is a complaint in MyLA311, they send an investigator to figure out if in the easement or not; it can be researched and determined on NavigateLA, and by taking a survey. There is nothing to know by eye balling it. Member Templeton believes the trees are within the city's easements. Mr. Spotts related that it only happens when complaints are made and that it is not their intent to do that to people.
- Member Templeton asked what homeowners should do if they get such a summons. Mr. Spotts responded that they should call the investigator and talk to them. There is not always an edge of the road and the edge of the road is not necessarily an easement. Chief Gary Harris or Rivera would be the persons to ask.
- CD5 Representative Jarrett Thompson noted that this had been going on for years. He explained that the notices were to bring them to the table to figure out how to handle it. You would want a survey and it is the city's benefit to know where that line is. With this location, there are private trees causing damage to the road. Urban Forestry was brought out to figure out which trees needed to be pruned or other.
- Chair Sandler noted that the issue has come up in various locations, and these bumps are a safety issue.
- Mr. Spotts noted that one of the divisions, "Investigating & Enforcement" reports to him. It is all case specific to the location and in some instances could involve a city tree and a private tree. He is not entirely familiar with this process and recommends that we have a chief of the division discuss it at a future meeting.
- Member Templeton does not believe the city should hand out notices of violation without determining if valid.
- Chair Sandler would like a point person, to which Jarrett noted that he is that person, and that David Miranda, Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division, will be running our street tree operations now that Chief Forester Tyson is taking retirement. Phone: 213-847-3052
- Member Pierson asked regarding the Mulholland surfacing between Laurel Canyon & Wrightwood, primarily in front of the Fire Station. Mr. Spotts recommended speaking with Aida Valencia who oversees resurfacing for the Valley; they report to Keith Mozee, and it may take a long time to schedule because of traffic impacts.
- CD4 Chiefs are Harris & Rivera; Martin Schlategger assisted by Elise Lee & Melinda Geyer, whom you can reach out to, as concierge. Mr. Spotts recommended letting them know which trees they were wrong about. He noted that they are in a hiring freeze, having had 1,250 employees six months ago to now having only 850.
- Bob Schlesinger raised issue of red curbs. Maureen has a map of fire routes.

## **10. Update on the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Metro Project – Bob Anderson**

<https://thesource.metro.net/2020/08/21/update-on-sepulveda-transit-corridor-and-opportunities-for-public-input/>  
 Additional information: <http://laskyrailexpress.com/>

Chair Sandler introduced Bob Anderson, who gave a detailed update. Comments included but were not limited to: The East San Fernando Transit Corridor (ESFTC) Light Rail / Street Car Transit Project from Oxnard & Van Nuys to the Metrolink station in Sylmar has just finished the final environmental report. One of his big concerns is if Metro does not have enough money to build. They had enough for this ESFTC; the price went up, would be done in two phases. They will run it up Van Nuys, but will not finish the line to the Metrolink station. His concern about the Sepulveda Transit Project is that Metro has designed four concepts, none affordable, each 2-3x times more than budget; worried if they cannot find an affordable concept to go from Pico & Sepulveda to Van Nuys Blvd & Oxnard, and if they pick one that is too expensive, they'll only build half and much later the second half. We need to connect the Valley with the Westside and get some of that traffic off the freeway now.

He noted that Dr. Joshua Shank, Office of Extraordinary Innovation, came up with the private/public approach. They may be able to build with financing changed. Metro put out a request last Halloween to solicit proposals, received August 26-29; and, unfortunately, because it is a "procurement" it is under "blackout rules." There are four consortia that are going to bid but does not know which concepts they will bid on. One company bid a concept of a monorail along the 405 freeway. That is LASKyRail Express. <http://laskyrailexpress.com/metro-sepulveda-corridor-project/> Three other companies, one run by Bechtel. There are now up to eight concepts that Metro is "looking at." Four of

their own: Two are subways going underneath the hill, one goes underneath Sepulveda in the Valley the other underneath Van Nuys Blvd. in the Valley. The other two: One is a heavy rail train that goes underneath the hill but surfaces in Valley Vista and Sepulveda and goes up Sepulveda Boulevard above ground, which Sherman Oaks is opposes. The fourth concept of Metro is a monorail along the 405 shoulder and then runs along Sepulveda, again, up the center of Sepulveda for five miles in Sherman Oaks and Van Nuys. Those are Metro's four concepts. They know that the industry has bid at least the monorail on the 405, on the 405 the whole way, and hopefully they have bid on three others. He noted that he has heard that the industry concepts are going to be affordable, within Metro's budget. He has heard that the Monorail on the 405 has bid from Oxnard and Van Nuys Boulevard all the way to LAX, which he feels would be a great link. The other three we don't know about.

He noted that typically, Metro makes their decision, gives the public 72 hours to see them and makes their decision. He wrote a strong letter to Phil Washington about 72 hours and got a reply two days later saying you have one month. There are industry innovative concepts and Metro's four concepts. They will announce probably January/February, maybe later. When they announce they will put out a report showing the concepts in some detail. At that point, they will have one month until the next Metro meeting to provide public comments. You will not get an email; you will have to monitor the Metro website. He has done public records requests for industry consortia. The other three companies that bid did not have a monorail contract. One may have communicated with a Canadian company that built monorail in Las Vegas. He noted that there are only three companies in the world that build monorails; no American company builds them; they have to team. We will find out in January or February and he will let everyone know. Be prepared to make comments on these concepts.

He continued that they say they will pick at most two concepts to go forward; if we pick two, they must be a different method of transit. Right now, Metro is making this one major decision as to which of these concepts go forward and which do not. They have a clause in the environmental to go all the way to LAX. If you ask Metro for information, they will tell you they cannot due to procurement rules. The decision was supposed to be made two months ago but because of COVID it is pushed to next year. Member Pierson mentioned Bombardier monorail project in Egypt.

Chair Sandler noted that the question is, what we need to do to promote the ideas that we are concerned about, and when one makes comments, what happens. He noted they collect all the comment documents, on a comments log and another log. Every comment the SOHA made were in there, over 50% of the pages. Chair Sandler noted that we could get people working on these documents. Mr. Anderson related that Metro will take time to make a final decision. A Notice of Intent to Award will come out. They always meet a week before the board. They'll put out a board report, 10-15 pages to 200 pages, to include info about the concept, maybe the cost, maybe the evaluation scores Metro's evaluation team gave of the proposals. You will probably have two weeks. He plans to get comments out within a week. He related that you can look at Metro's technical feasibility report, request of proposal for contractors bid; look at the website and the public comments log. He will send the link if we cannot find it. Member Levinson thanked Mr. Anderson on behalf of the BAA for all his work and information.

He mentioned the Environmental Studies; noting that they happen to like the two subways and that despite the elevated trains going up Sepulveda, he does not think they will build those. Starting at Valley Vista, going north on Sepulveda, there is a water main that wiggles around. You cannot build anything on the top of it; Metro Water District will not let you. He noted they agreed they would have to remove that two and a half miles and relocate an 8-foot main; a 96" water main that feeds the Westside, last thing that Metro wants to do. He hopes industry comes up with concepts that are viable, and Metro has to determine if viable. He noted that they hate the ones above Sepulveda; they are open to other ideas as long as they are technically viable, make sense, and are not destroying community like yours or ours. He suggested speaking with Karen Swift or whomever your community relations person is at Metro.

Shawn Bayliss related that he has spoken to Karen Swift, who was very generous with her time. He noted that if there is a solution that we can say yes to, close to what we're hoping for, see how we can work together to push for that. His group likes the monorail down the 405 but not everyone does. He is happy to push for what SOHA wants. Chair Sandler related that at some point, we need a presentation to our board about what we really need to accomplish in order to protect our communities. Shawn Bayliss agreed. Mr. Anderson would like to make a presentation but did not know which concepts were picked. Member Templeton related that BAHA has a concern about the potential noise related to the monorail. Chair Sandler noted it is also a wildlife corridor. Mr. Anderson related issue affordability, that this is County; Measure M is in real trouble, Metro has huge budget problems with no businesses going, noting that Measure M is fed by sales tax. Member Morris expressed concern about noise, to which Mr. Anderson related that the monorails run on rubber tires on electric motors.

Chair Sandler noted that the 405 precluded some space in the median that they originally put into their plans, and wanted to know if there is enough room. Mr. Anderson said that there is, and that per Phil Washington, they will coordinate and it will fit. Member Sandler raised the question of whether the same companies will also handle the maintenance. Mr. Anderson noted that the public/private also includes a financial company. The County may not begin paying until 10-more years. There are complex contracts. No matter what concept they build, they may build it through a public/private partnership, which figures out financing, cost, how much they can make from operating, set it up so they make good money when it is operating and in the end if it works as it should. Metro is trying as hard as they can to get these concepts within the funding that they have. Chair Sandler asked about the composition of the Metro board, to which Mr. Anderson noted that there are only a few councilmembers on the board, Mayor Garcetti is now the Chair, which will roll out to Hilda Solis in June. He considers Paul Krekorian the Valley's rep on the board, and has had good luck with Sheila Kuehl's office. He noted that CM Krekorian's office will not see SOHA. Chair Sandler thanked Mr. Anderson on behalf of the committee.

**11. Update: Traffic-Related Issues of Proposed Mission Canyon Park – Gabriella Golik Garry, MRCA**

- This project is sponsored by LA County & MRCA on County Sanitation Land in the Sepulveda Pass.
  - Chair Sandler introduced Gabriella Golik Garry from MRCA. The park will be at CD11 and the road CD5 & CD11.
  - Ms. Garry noted that the project was spearheaded by Sheila Kuehl's office and the Sanitation District, as it will be on CD11 territory, at the Mission Canyon Dump. Currently it is a facility for a laydown yard, old methane monitored.
  - Ms. Garry came to this committee two years ago, heard concerns including but not limited to security, fire & traffic.
  - They had a shortfall with the CEQA study, started a task force including LADOT/Cal Trans for the area, did a feasibility study; part of it involved closing off access to Mulholland.
  - Sepulveda at southbound 405 is the current entrance with stop sign in and out, future park facility.
  - They discussed adding a secure left turn lane into the park; creating southbound right turn into the park pocket.
  - Taking people off the road to go safely into the park was signed off by Cal Trans/LADOT.
  - They did not include this into funding source; and they now need 4 million dollars to do this. They have a safer exit and entry into the park, a roadmap of what to fund. They can fund the design portion and permitting but not the construction; will not construct until full funding and the status is very uncertain.
  - Visit the park website to see the full visual presentation. Scroll down to project documents.
- Link for presentation [www.missioncanyonpark.com](http://www.missioncanyonpark.com) you can email her at: [gabriella.golik@mrca.ca.gov](mailto:gabriella.golik@mrca.ca.gov)
- Member Levinson asked if this includes the Nike surveillance structure. Ms. Garry responded that it does not. There will be a connecting trail from the new park property that will be dedicated. Chair Sandler thanked her for coming.

**12. Written Update from Tim Fremaux, Sr. Transportation Engineer, Valley & Western District Ops, LADOT** on the proposed 2nd left turn lane on WB Mulholland turning onto Skirball Center Drive. Tim wrote that they are actively working on the dual left turn from Mulholland onto Skirball and are hoping to have the installation completed soon. He is available to look into other active issues or concerns in our area.

- Member Templeton mentioned the little white lights westbound as well.

**New Business (Updates, Discussion and Possible Action):**

**13. Update & Report** on tree roots lifting Roscomare Road & Possible Traffic Solutions for Canyons – P. Templeton (Discussed above.) Member Templeton will present alternative traffic enforcement issue next time we meet.

**14. Update & Report from Member Morris on FAA airport issue:** She has a request of the group regarding taking a motion forward to the general board meeting next week. She noted that a Professor in the UCLA School of Public Health who does research on environmental health impacts did an electron microscopy study followed by elemental chemical analysis of the black deposits now seen on our pools, trees, patios, and everywhere and determined it is jet fuel exhaust which is known to be toxic to humans and other animals. The professor signed an affidavit to this effect, which has been included as part of the lawsuit filed by the residents group called SOSLA against the FAA for the damages they created with the illegally implemented new flight paths at Burbank and Van Nuys airports.

**Requested Emergency Motion:** To have Member Morris request a letter from BABCNC to [the Councilmembers on the] (added) SF Valley Task Force asking them to respond to the FAA letter dated 9.1.2020. Member Miner **moved, seconded** by Member Pierson. Member Stojka joined the meeting at 9:05pm; **passed** by **7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions.**

**15. Report by Committee Members**

**16. Written Update RE: Alert Wildfire Program's newly installed Fire Alert Cameras in the Santa Monica Mountains;** this information may be relevant to wildfire evacuation routes. See link:

<http://www.alertwildfire.org/orangecoca/index.html?camera=Axis-MountainGate1&v=7a7f1b8>

- Please send recommendations for any camera locations to Chuck Maginnis @ [cmaginnis@babnc.org](mailto:cmaginnis@babnc.org)
- Pamela recommended Stone Canyon Overlook as a location.

**17. Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm

**Next Meeting: TBD**