



**BABCNC Virtual Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday April 14, 2021 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**  
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Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Irene Sandler, Chair	X		Robin Greenberg	X	
Philip Enderwood	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	
Maureen Levinson	X		Nickie Miner	X	

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Flag Salute & Roll Call – Irene Sandler, Chair  
There were 13 members initially; Philip left at 7:03 & Nickie Miner arrived at 7:07, total of 14.
2. Introduction of Attendees
3. Approval of April 14, 2021 AGENDA Moved by André; seconded by Maureen; 13-0-0; passed;
4. Approval of February 2, 2021 MINUTES (Circulated with the Agenda)  
Moved by André; seconded by Bob; 11 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained: Maureen & Patricia; passed.
5. General Public Comments –  
Damian Kevitt, Executive Director of “Streets are For Everyone,” is sponsoring statewide legislation, SB735, around school zones. Reach out if any questions for presentation, data, facts sheet, to provide data for this committee because we are concerned about traffic and speeding. SB 735 is in the Senate’s Transportation Committee Senate, about School Zone Speed Safety.
6. Chair’s Report – Irene Sandler – Request a volunteer to Co-Chair this Traffic Committee
7. Representatives of Elected Officials/Agencies
  - **Officer Erik Helmstetter, Acting SLO, from the Hollywood Division**, including Hollywood Hills, while Ralph Sanchez is out. He gave the following report: 1) Hollywood Division has a huge volunteer unit, Reserve Volunteer Unit, 75 civilians strong, run by Officer Johnson, getting ready to be released, now that COVID restrictions are relaxing. They plan to use them for traffic problems; put them out on foot to do extra patrol. They have put them out at dangerous intersections, have white uniforms, record license plates & speed. They send a letter about the importance of slowing down in these neighborhoods, about certain speed limits that they reach. There will be an officer there who can enforce and write tickets.
  - 2) The street takeovers: Hollywood Patrol will go out there if something happens, so West Bureau Traffic Division now has a whole unit that goes out and handles the street racers/street takeovers. They hope for a more coordinated response with these officers dedicated to this. Irene would like to have Officer Johnson come and talk to us. Acting SLO Helmstetter #38638 [38638@lapd.online](mailto:38638@lapd.online)
  - **Senior Lead Officer, Pete Ojeda, West Bureau**: They do not have the volunteer program Hollywood has, but he would speak to Officer Johnson there for those interested. As to resources, they have one SLO for the area of Beverly Hills & Culver City encompassed, one car in the morning, one at night and a couple in between. His partner, Ryan Basaker, is going out for hand surgery and won’t be with us for three or four months. His partner will continue. Andy Taylor used to work the Street Racing Task Force in the Valley, and he can work with him.

- **CD5 Jarrett Thompson, Deputy Representative for Councilmember Paul Koretz:** Jarrett noted that they are working actively with LAPD & LADOT to try to address the auto racing & speeding accidents all over the district. CM Koretz expedited a restricted left hand arrow at Olympic & Overland, in CD5, following the tragic loss of an Angeleno about a month ago. They have new locations for permanent feedback signs and rest technology at stop lights, which require people to slow down and stop, as well as delineators, speed humps, and anything that anyone can think of, they are open to requesting DOT to do investigation. You can reach Jarrett and they will work with DOT to do that. Patricia Templeton reported partial success of the street area on Roscomare; they are supposedly being repaved in May. Jarrett gave update on this, learning last week, if that can happen in the weekend, it will happen in May; however, Roscomare Elementary is opening for a period, and if not, will be pushed after June 10<sup>th</sup>, hopefully in June. Patricia mentioned a second area of tree bumps, which she will be working with Jarrett on.
- CD4 Rachel Fox, Deputy Representative for Councilmember Nithya Raman was not present.
- Zachary Gaidzik, Representative of County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office was not present.

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

**8. Appoint Nickie Miner to the Committee:** Moved by Irene; seconded & 12-0-0; approved.

**9. Introduce Graham Green, Traffic Chair of Residents of Beverly Glen:** Graham Green related that he has been working with Jarrett and Paul Koretz's office on putting medians on Beverly Glen to slow down speeding cars. He noted that they have accidents frequently on the street; it is dangerous. He has gotten some initial CAB drawings for the road; applied for Class B permit and is slowly moving forward on that. These are similar to those on Outpost Lane. He has a pdf of the CAB files to show us.

**10. Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project (STCP)**

**a) Current Information Presentation by Special Guest Speaker, Bob Anderson, SOHA:**

Bob Anderson, Transportation Chair SOHA, introduced himself and provided a detailed presentation. He began to get involved in this project five and a half years ago. He has a background in physics, and is a nuclear engineer. He can understand and read drawings. He started working with Jeff Kalban who is the PLUM and Vision Subcommittee Chair of the Sherman Oaks NC.

Jeff Kalban related that he has been working with Bob for a few years as an architect. He and his office create drawings to show what the trains do on the streets. He noted that Stephanie Wiggins is replacing Philip Washington at Metro. Bob explained the STCP, noting that it initially connects the Valley to Westside, and eventually will connect the Valley to LAX. It must be fast, high capacity, safe, user friendly, affordable, within budget; it must be fair and equitable to all impacted communities. Some comments from his presentation are noted as follows:

**Key Goals for Sepulveda Pass:**

- GREAT Predevelopment agreement concepts pursued.
- GREAT Metro Concepts Pursued
- Sufficient Funding secured for all GREAT concepts
- Unacceptable nonviable concepts rejected
- Metro Finally gives Valley its Deserved Fair Share.

**Measure M Budget Valley-Westside Split:** There are two entries for this project, Phase 2, from Valley to Westside. Phase 1 is toll lanes. Metro has about 7 billion dollars for entire project. They think there are up to four potential project concepts still considered; two are certain and two they will be learning about soon. Bob gave detailed explanation. Skyrail got 60 points higher than anyone else. Quality concept C+. All of these projects have to get better over time. Monorail is the only concept that is viable that can travel above ground over the Sepulveda Pass. Not every other concept can make the steep hill and because of that, they have to go through a tunnel.

He discussed the Bechtel project. The project requires having 12,000 passengers per hour per direction. Bechtel is almost 4 billion dollars above the cost of what Metro has, for a single project in a county building 20 projects in transit. Jeffrey noted that the monorail will be in some locations in the windows of condominiums.

Bob noted that two Metro concepts remain; two removed. He guesses that Metro will pick one to go to Environmental Review. He noted that it is a 100-year project; up to 14 billion dollars, twice as much as they have.

He thinks that they will look at it and eventually say that they cannot build it.

The main concerns except for the monorail are geotechnical. He discussed boring/tunneling by Bechtel. They build two tunnels 20 feet each next to each other; one for each direction. Bechtel is proposing two trains side by side; haven't said how big, imply 40 feet inside, 45 feet outside. A big tunnel. They drill from two directions. The Bechtel proposal discusses geohazards, e.g., fault and rupture problem, e.g., Benedict Canyon rupture. Leslie is concerned about impact of ground water, methane, sedimentary rock.

Jeffrey noted that the hillside is shale, going down to the Valley, there are a whole bunch of plates. The geotech engineer says building on the basin side of the hill is safe, but north of Mulholland has a chance of slippage in contrast to what you have in Manhattan, e.g., that is stable.

Bob is concerned, Valley Vista Ventura to UCLA has no stops, is 5 miles long. If you have a failure, he doesn't want to walk five miles to get out. There are a lot of things that they have to convince people of that it will be safe. He noted that Irene is concerned about venting. He'll show us their concern in the Valley. He'll discuss route charts by Skyrail and Bechtel routes. No stop for the Getty.

Bob noted that they are concerned because five miles in Sherman Oaks and Van Nuys. You'll be able to hear the trains. Elevated trains noisy next to residential areas. Areas will become a blight zone, breeding ground for homeless encampments. Bechtel design would have to build on top of the water main under Sepulveda. This is a 96" water main, 30 x water capacity of Sunset Boulevard water line; it feeds the Westside. Bechtel is talking about putting huge 12-foot columns with this suspended on it, which he described as a construction nightmare.

Jeff provided various images of the trains; noted that the noise going in and out of the tunnels will be deafening. You'll lose homes, condos, this has no regard for community. It is the busiest traffic corridor in the world. Eminent domain does not apply to the monorail.

Maureen asked why they did not choose to tunnel beneath Beverly Glen, to which Bob noted that they want to get to Sepulveda from UCLA; picked the straightest route from UCLA to Sepulveda Blvd & the Valley. They will add one more lane on each side, the lanes will get slightly narrower, 10 feet instead of 12; two more lanes on the freeway; lose no lanes on the monorail. They want toll lanes to pay for rapid transit.

Patricia asked how much will the monorail impact traffic on the 405, to which he replied, "zero," they tend to build the concrete structures at night. Wendy asked about subways' breathing tubes, to which Bob noted as the train goes by they have to vent the air. Extensive informational discussion was held.

Bob noted that they estimate the EIR process to take four years, beginning in the fall. They are giving 52-month contracts to both Skyrail and Bechtel. Bob noted that there are two logs at Metro, one for letters and one for verbal & email comments. Bob and Jeff had a one-hour meeting with Metro. Irene asked and Bob discussed the issue of public meetings and lack of availability of the reports.

André asked, about public/private partnership with the implication that the private part would have their own investment, how is it working with these proposals? Bob replied that they are very complex financial deals. Many of the proposals are redacted and no details provided. He noted that they do not have a position yet. He would like them to put out a summary of these proposals.

Maureen L asked for the definition of "offramp." Pamela asked about BYD, not Chinese owned, located in China. Bob noted that that is a concern that needs to be looked at and brought up to the public; that BYD has their US bus factory in Palmdale.

b) Additional Information by Philip Enderwood – Not present

- c) Two Motions from the Recap of Metro Board of Directors' March meeting
  - A. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to award the following two (2) Contracts, subject to resolution of protests, if any.
    - a. **Contract No. PS66773MRT** to LA SkyRail Express, a special purpose corporation to be formed between John Laing Investments Limited and BYD Transit Solutions LLC, for pre-development services for a proposed Monorail technology transit solution concept ("TSC") in an amount not to exceed \$63,605,132.
    - b. **Contract No. PS66773HRT** to Sepulveda Transit Corridor Partners-Bechtel, a special purpose vehicle to be formed between Bechtel Development Company, Inc., Meridiam Sepulveda, LLC and American Triple I Partners, LLC, for pre-development services for a proposed Heavy Rail technology transit solution concept ("TSC") in an amount not to exceed \$69,882,427
  - B. APPROVED Contract Modification Authority in the amount of 25% for each of the two contract award values, respectively, and authorize the CEO to execute individual Contract Modifications within the Board-approved Contract Modification Authority.
- d) Links on the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project provided by Chair Sandler
  - <https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/21294-say-no-to-the-405-monorail>
  - <https://la.streetsblog.org/2021/03/15/ten-reasons-to-ditch-the-sepulveda-monorail-proposal-now/>

**11. Discussion & Possible Motion:** To have a Town Hall on Metro's Sepulveda Corridor Transit Project. Irene suggested possibly having our own town hall after the Metro public meeting.

**12. Update on Street Racing and Intersection Takeovers – P. Enderwood**

Info from Paul Koretz's Newsletter was discussed briefly.

- a. **STREET RACING: LAPD** has transitioned street racing/takeover response from a "divisional" response to a "bureau" response. What this means is that the Bureau are now deploying 25 officers from each geographical area plus West Traffic Division to combat the street racing. This has resulted in an increase in citations, impoundments, and arrests for DUI, and wreckless driving, and other violations
- b. **GOOD NEWS: MORE WLA OFFICERS:** Due to the "reimagining of LAPD" due to budget cuts, the city has thinned down its non-patrol resources and each division received some resources. West Los Angeles Division gained 15 extra officers who will bolster the patrol watches and reduce response time with calls to 911 and non-emergency service calls.

Discussed need to have a partner when working as a volunteer with the police department, to watch street racing. Maureen could radio in. 75 people at Hollywood Station is very impressive. Jarrett old program training individuals to work on radar met with many lawsuits. Maureen noted that you pass the course, do some additional training and they will give you an electric BMW and you can patrol your neighborhood. The course introduces the different departments and resources and then you go into a simulator room to decide whether you would pull a gun or taser. They then teach you how to drive the cars through an obstacle course. She did a 10-12 week course.

**13. Discuss** having Steve Hyman from Metro as possible guests for May meeting. He writes for the "Source" on the Metro website.

**14. Adjournment** Robin thanked Irene for a wonderful evening, noting that we were so lucky to have Bob & Jeff this evening and adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm. Next Meeting Date in May TBD