




February 6, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager 

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: February 3 – 6, 2020

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- At the January 8, 2020, meeting of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) Board of Directors, Board members approved motions that appear to reverse comments made in September 2019 that SBCTA should consider ending its collaboration with Metro on the Gold Line extension to Montclair and consider other alternatives. Specifically, the Board considered the following:
 - Agenda Item 13. The Board recognized that in 2018, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) secured a \$290 million Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant for Phase 2B of the Gold Line extension from Azusa to Montclair. Of this total, \$41 million is allocated for work in San Bernardino County, from Claremont to Montclair. SBCTA staff had considered returning the \$41 million to the state, but the agenda report now indicates SBCTA staff recommends retention of the funds. The Board approved retaining the \$41 million TIRCP grant for construction of the Montclair Segment of the Gold Line extension.
 - Agenda Item 14. The Board was asked to consider transferring the operation and maintenance of the Arrow hybrid-rail vehicles for the Arrow service (diesel-multiple trains operating between San Bernardino and Redlands) from Omnitrans to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), as the Federal Railroad Administration identified railroad of record and the current commuter rail service provider in San Bernardino County. The Board recognized that a number of incorrect assumptions were made regarding costs and Omnitrans' operation of rail as a stand-alone service provider, and that rail-related services, including maintenance and operation, would be more cost effective if provided by SCRRA. The Board also recognized that the cost of liability insurance made rail service operations by Omnitrans cost prohibitive, and that SBCTA, through Omnitrans, would be entering into rail operations with no previous rail operations history, further resulting in risk and higher risk

premiums. The Board approved awarding rail service operations to SCRRA, subject to acceptance of that role by SCRRA.

- Agenda Item 17. The Board was asked to direct SBCTA staff on a funding strategy for the West Valley Connector (WVCA) Phase I Project that includes an allocation of up to \$53 million in uncommitted transit funds and requests for at least \$65 million in TIRCP grant funds, with contingency funding of up to \$50 million in uncommitted transit funds in the case of unsuccessful grant requests. The WVCA is a proposed 35 mile-long bus rapid transit corridor that would connect the cities of Pomona, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana. Holt Boulevard would serve as the corridor's backbone, with stations space 0.5 to 1 mile apart. Stations would be designed for fast boarding to facilitate higher operating speeds. The total project cost is \$287 million. In December 2019, the Board identified a \$118 million WVCA funding gap. To close the gap, SBCTA proposed seeking at least \$65 million in grant funding from a variety of sources, and close the remaining gap with \$53 million in uncommitted transit funds. However, if the WVCA funding gap is closed with grant dollars, the \$53 million in uncommitted transit funds would be identified for other uses, including \$17.4 million for construction of the Montclair Segment of the Gold Line extension. Uncommitted transit funds would be in addition to the \$41 million in TIRCP funds approved for the Montclair Segment in April 2018, and \$39 million in committed local and state formula dollars. If \$17.4 million in uncommitted transit funds is made available, it would satisfy the \$97.4 million requirement to construct the Montclair Segment. The funds would include the \$41 million TIRCP + \$39 million in state and local formula + \$17.4 million in uncommitted transit = \$97.4 million. The Board approved the recommendations.

The above SBCTA Board actions appear to affirm that the County's transportation agency is working to secure the required funding for the Montclair Segment of the Gold Line.

- In January 2020, Assembly Member Chris Holden (41st District) introduced Assembly Bill 2011 (AB 2011), a bill that would establish the West San Bernardino County Rail Construction Authority (WSBCRCA), laying the groundwork to extend the Gold Line to Ontario International Airport (ONT). According to Assembly Member Holden, *“Light-rail is playing a critical role in reducing our carbon footprint, improving air quality, and connecting communities throughout the region....these benefits will expand into San Bernardino County once the Metro Gold Line Extension to Montclair is completed, and have a greater impact if extended to Ontario Airport.”* The WSBCRCA would have responsibility to construct the Gold Line extension from Montclair to ONT, with representation to include one voting representative from Montclair, Upland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA), SBCTA, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro); and one non-voting member appointed by the Governor. Montclair has recommended that the bill be amended to extend the WSBCRCA's authority to begin at Pomona. This amendment

recognizes that if \$468 million in state funding for the Pomona to Montclair extension is not developed by October 2021, the project would become independent of the current procurement from Azusa to Pomona. Further, the Pomona to Montclair extension would then require federal transit funding for completion. Under this revised scenario, the WSBCRCA would also include voting membership from both Pomona and Claremont.

- On Friday, January 31, 2020, Mayor John Dutrey and I attended a hearing conducted by the State Assembly's Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions at Ontario City Hall. The hearing, hosted by Assemblymembers Chris Holden, Freddie Rodriguez and Eloise Gomez-Reyes, and joined by Senators Connie Leyva and Susan Rubio, focused on "*A Connected California for All: The Future of Sustainable Transportation*". Presentations included the following panels:
 - **Panel 1: Interregional Connectivity**
 - ✓ Airport Authority Commentary on Rail Connections to Airport – *Alan Wapner, Board President, Ontario International Airport Authority*
 - ✓ Impact of Rail and Airport Connectivity on Local Economies – *Paul Granillo, Chief Executive Officer of Inland Empire Economic Partnership*
 - ✓ Interregional Rail Servicing- *Todd McIntyre, Chief Strategy Officer of Metrolink*
 - ✓ Development of Zero Emission Passenger Rail Technology- *Ray Wolfe, Executive Director of SBCTA*
 - **Panel 2: Developing Sustainable Communities**
 - ✓ Importance of Quality, Equity, and Affordability in the Nexus of Housing and Transportation: *Suzanne Hague, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research*
 - ✓ Role of Infrastructure and Community Engagement in Encouraging Active Transportation: *Wesley Reutimann, Special Programs Director at Active San Gabriel Valley*
 - ✓ Goals and Vision from Local Regional Planning Agency: *Kome Ajise, Executive Director at the Southern California Association of Governments*

- **Panel 3: Connecting Sustainable Communities**

- ✓ Effects of Quality Transit on Improving Equity in Vulnerable Populations: *Mariana Huerta-Jones, Campaign & Communications Manager of ACT-LA*
- ✓ Potential Impacts from a Statewide Student Transit Pass Program: *Gloria Ohland, Director of Policy and Communications at MoveLA*
- ✓ Regional Bus Programs to Improve Accessibility to Educational Institutions: *Erin Rogers, Chief Executive Officer of OmniTrans and Michael Turner, Deputy Executive Officer of Government Relations at Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority*

During a presentation made by SBCTA Executive Director Dr. Ray Wolfe, Dr. Wolfe stated that he and SBCTA are committed to building the Gold Line to Montclair and beyond to ONT as a means to achieve transit connectivity between the regions of Southern California. When funding is developed to extend the Gold Line from Pomona to Claremont, SBCTA will be prepared to move forward with its commitment to complete the extension to Montclair. Assembly Member Holden and Assembly Member Rodriguez reiterated their commitment to develop the funding that would build the Gold Line extension to Montclair.

During the course of the event, topics of immediate importance to Montclair included the following:

- Transit-oriented development. **Transit-oriented development (TOD)** is the growing trend to create vibrant, livable, sustainable communities that are compact and pedestrian-oriented, and developed with high-density residential and mixed-use projects centered around high-quality transit systems. These types of communities make it possible to live a lower-stress life without complete dependence on a car for mobility and survival. The public has embraced the concept across the nation as the most desirable places to live, work and play, and real estate developers have quickly followed to meet the high demand for quality urban places served by high-quality transit systems. Transit oriented development can also contribute toward addressing the growing problems of climate change and energy consumption by creating dense, walkable communities that greatly reduce the need for driving and energy consumption. TODs reportedly reduce driving by up to 85%, as residents switch to public transportation for mobility. Assembly Member Rodriguez noted that among Gold Line and Metrolink cities, Montclair has been at the forefront in developing a district for transit-oriented development.
- First/last mile planning. An individual's transit trip is understood as the entire journey from origin to destination. Individuals may use a number of modes of transport to complete the journey — they may walk, drive, ride a bicycle, take a

train, or in many cases combine a number of modes. Public transportation agencies typically provide bus and rail services that may frame the core of such trips, but users must complete the first and last portion of the commute on their own, either by walking, driving, or rolling themselves to the nearest transit station – the portion of the trip referred to as the first and last mile, even though actual distances will vary by user. All transit riders must contend with the first / last mile challenge, and the easier it is to access the system, the more likely people are to use it. The goal of first / last mile planning is to better coordinate infrastructure investments in station areas to extend the reach of transit, with the ultimate goal of increasing ridership. Plan guidelines help facilitate the integration of mobility solutions in a complex, multi-modal environment; and strategies will need to contend with widely varying environments and aim to improve the user experience by supporting intuitive, safe and recognizable routes to and from transit stations.

- Active Transportation. Active transportation refers to human-powered methods of travel, such as walking, bicycling or rolling to get from one place to another. Investing in public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian facilities creates opportunities for people to exercise, reduce obesity, and minimize the risk for developing costly chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Everyone uses active transportation at some point in a trip, whether walking to a rail station, bicycling to work or rolling home from a bus stop. Montclair is currently working toward development of an active transportation plan as part of its TOD development and General Plan Update.
- Inter-regional and Airport Connectivity. **Inter-regional and airport connectivity** consist of commuter and light rail service, buses (including express and long-distance bus services), ride hailing services, and commercial airways/airports interconnected to improve access and connectivity. Extension of the Gold Line to Montclair and ultimately to ONT is an example of inter-regional and airport connectivity. The Gold Line provides regional light rail service at a high level of frequency, with connectivity planned for both Los Angeles and Ontario International Airports.
- Following the January 31, 2020, hearing on "*A Connected California for All: The Future of Sustainable Transportation*", Assembly Member Rodriguez hosted a roundtable discussion for City Managers from cities in the 52nd Assembly District. A main topic of discussion included the chronic homelessness problem sweeping California and how to address the crisis. I spoke on the need to develop a coordinated strategy between the federal, state and local governments to pursue a plan that offers a combination of sheltering and services designed to restore mental and physical health, curb or eliminate addictions, build self-confidence, and develop employment opportunities. Assembly Member Rodriguez committed to working with cities and county agencies to develop funding targeting the homelessness crisis.

- At the City Manager's roundtable, Assembly Member Rodriguez announced that for 2020, the "**Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) Program**" is returning to the Montclair area, offering \$3,000 in homeowner's assistance to lessen the potential for damage during an earthquake. In an EBB retrofit, the foundation of the home is bolted, and if there is a cripple wall the home is also braced with plywood panels. To qualify, the home must have been built before 1980, have a raised continuous perimeter concrete foundation, sit on level ground or a low slope, and may have wood-framed walls (cripple walls) in the crawl space under the home. Houses built before 1980 on raised foundations are vulnerable to earthquake damage because they are often not bolted to their foundations, may lack bracing on the wood framed walls enclosing the crawl space, and are prone to sliding or toppling off their foundation during an earthquake. This type of damage can be prevented with proper seismic retrofit of the crawl space. The registration period for EBB assistance is February 19 to March 19, 2020. To register and for additional information, go to www.earthquakebracebolt.com/.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- This past Friday, Economic Development Coordinator/Housing Associate Thailin Martin successfully completed the four-week University of Southern California (USC) Ross Minority Program in Real Estate (RMPIRE) at USC. The four-week program is an educational platform providing critical skills to women and minorities and offers graduates the opportunity to participate in leadership roles and establish a pathway for success within the real estate industry.

The Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles, local community leaders, and USC faculty members founded the RMPIRE in 1992. In 2002, the program's permanent viability was made possible by a generous donation made by Stan Ross and his wife Marilyn. Thanks to the founders and Stan Ross and his wife many women and minorities continue to have the grand opportunity to expand their knowledge and critical skills to improve their communities and careers.

The program, taught by USC professors, is designed to bring individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives together to solve complex real estate challenges. The finance lectures focused on investment analysis and valuation, leases, financial modeling, financing of real estate development, and distressed real estate. The lectures included topics that reflect current market environments such as affordable housing, work force housing, and transit orient development (TOD).

As a final project, students participated in a competitive team case study designed to allow the teams to apply and integrate what had been learned during the course of the program.

The competition called for the proposed development of a 116,000 sq. ft. mixed parking lot and residential site in Los Angeles' Council District 9. The students were charged with determining the best and highest use of the site and to develop

a design that included a site plan, elevations, a model, as well as a pro forma, and highest and best use analysis. On the last course day, students in their respective assigned groups submitted a written development proposal along with a verbal and physical presentation.

Congratulations on your achievement, Thailin!



Picture credit (left to right): Christine Caldwell Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development and Thailin Martin Economic Development Coordinator/Housing Associate displaying Ms. Martin's certificate from USC's Marshall School of Business and Sol Price School of Public Policy last Friday evening.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- On Tuesday, January 28, 2020, the City of Montclair and Montclair Community Foundation in collaboration with Chaffey College hosted a Montclair to College (MTC) information night. The event provided Montclair High students and parents with an opportunity to hear representatives from Montclair High School, the City of Montclair, and Chaffey College speak about the MTC program. Council Member Tenice Johnson welcomed the students and parents before they visited eight different Chaffey Department tables including Financial Aid and Disabilities Services to ask questions and receive guidance. All students left a little more knowledgeable, with Chaffey College swag (pennant and lanyards), as well as resources for when they become Chaffey College Panthers. The event ended with students enjoying themselves on the multi-system game truck. The deadline to submit the Montclair to College application and community service is March 5. Any Montclair High student interested in the program can visit the Youth Center any day after school to learn more.

Photos from the event are featured on Page 10.

- On January 13-15, 2020, Human Services Technician Adriana Navarrete was invited to attend a three day Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to become a certified instructor for MHFA USA at St. Bernardine Medical Center. This opportunity was made possible by our partner San Antonio Regional Hospital.

Many know how to help if they saw someone having a heart attack; they'd start CPR, or at the very least, call 911. But few know how to respond if we saw someone having a panic attack or if we were concerned that a friend or co-worker might be showing signs of depression. MHFA takes the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and substance use problems by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental illness or substance use disorder. The training covered MHFA's action plan known as ALGEE which stands for Assess for risk of suicide or harm, Listen nonjudgmentally, Give reassurance, Encourage professional help, Encourage self-help and other support strategies. ALGEE can be used to assist individuals experiencing crisis due to depression, anxiety, psychosis, substance use, and eating disorders. To earn the certification on the final day of training, participants are required to present the curriculum successfully to the training instructors and fellow candidates. Ms. Navarrete passed the presentation requirement and earned her certification to be an Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor on January 15, 2020.

We look forward to training our Montclair After-School Program staff and partners so they can be better equipped to assist our community when they are in need. Certification for participants is valid for 3 years.



Featured in the Photo: Adult MHFA Instructors, newly certified Adult MHFA Instructors, and MHFA's mascot, ALGEE, the koala.



The month of February

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Event & Location</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Mon. 10 | Planning Commission Meeting — Cancelled | |
| Mon. 17 | Presidents' Day – <u>City Offices Closed</u> | |
| Tues. 18 | Real Estate Committee — Cancelled | |
| Tues. 18 | Code Enforcement Committee — Cancelled | |
| Tues. 18 | Council Workshop — Community Survey Results Council Chambers | 5:45 p.m. |
| Tues. 18 | City Council Meeting Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m. |
| Weds. 19 | FY 2019–20 Midyear Budget Review Council Chambers | 6:00 p.m. |
| Thurs. 20 | Public Works Committee Meeting City Manager's Conference Room | 4:00 p.m. |
| Tues. 25 | Community Meeting — Streetscape Design Arrow Highway & Fremont Senior Center | 6:00 p.m. |
| Weds. 26 | General Plan Workshop (Council & Planning Commission) Council Chambers | 6:00 p.m. |



Chaffey College

MONTCLAIR TO COLLEGE



MTC INFORMATION NIGHT

January 28, 2020

