

Fall 2019

A quarterly bulletin to inform local leaders of subregional progress and alert them to emerging issues

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PLANNING FOR A LOCAL TRAVEL NETWORK IN THE SOUTH BAY

Limes and Birds and Lyft's, oh my! By now most people are very familiar with these new micro-mobility devices and recognize them as the "rental" electric-scooters or electric-bikes they've seen in other areas of Los Angeles County and on the news. A recent South Bay Cities Council of Governments' survey found that South Bay residents have mixed feelings about these vehicles. As such, all South Bay cities have put bans or moratoriums in place to prohibit these services from operating until such time as they can be deployed in a safe and regulated way.



What's important to understand is that e-scooters and e-bikes are growing types of transportation. They are called "Micro-Mobility" which includes slow-speed vehicles, also known as Local Use Vehicles (LUV), that travel less than 25 mph and typically have a limited range of about 10 miles. A principal reason for their growing popularity is that many trips are relatively short - over 70% in the South Bay are 3 miles or less.

These slow speed devices can be people-powered like a regular bicycle or can have a small electric motor to assist the rider. In terms of variety, there's almost a different vehicle for every type of person, age or ability. From small electric golf carts to electric trikes to one-wheeled e-unicycles to "power" shoes,

"the market is evolving and quickly growing to meet the demand of consumers who want to be active, have fun and get around in a vehicle other than a 4,000-pound car.

Though micro-mobility vehicles started as a bit of a novelty it's fascinating that people are beginning to see the value of using these new devices for common and frequent short trips. And, since they don't pollute, they're a sustainable and affordable way to travel locally. The question is fast becoming: are there safe routes for these types of Local Use Vehicles?

To answer that question, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments was recently awarded a two-year Caltrans' Sustainable Communities Grant. Building off an earlier conceptual study that was commissioned by Metro, the Caltrans' project goal is to plan a local travel network (LTN) of safe slow-speed streets within the South Bay that, when connected together, will form a "back-bone" travel network for getting around the South Bay.

The challenge for Local Use Vehicles is that slow-speed vehicles are not permitted to travel along roads that have speed limits over 35 miles per hour, although they can cross roads that allow higher speeds. Therefore, trying to find just the right routes that will allow these vehicles access to the majority of likely destinations that a majority of residents prefer is not so straight-forward. **Continued on Page 2**

• SAVE THE DATE •

21st Annual SBCCOG General Assembly

Thursday, March 19, 2020 • 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center • 801 East Carson Street, Carson CA

The program will explore

Intersections: Mobility, Land Use, Technology, and Finance

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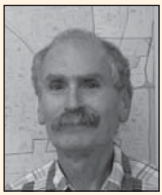
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JON RODMAN, THE MAN BEHIND THE MAPS



Jon Rodman has become an essential part of the analyses on projects that are being done at the SBCCOG when mapping is required. Just one example is as follows:

With the services of Carolyn Yvellez, a Civic Spark Climate Fellow, the SBCCOG has prepared a Sub-Regional Climate Adaptation Plan and city-specific Vulnerability Assessments to help South Bay cities better understand and prepare for climate impacts in their communities.

A huge undertaking over the course of 11 months, Carolyn found herself in need of a volunteer with GIS mapping experience to help her prepare the vulnerability assessments: "I love developing content and running the analyses, but vulnerability assessments also require extensive mapping (of hazard-prone areas and sensitive populations) that takes a lot of time and an eye for design to make them look professional." Carolyn put out a volunteer posting for a recent college graduate with GIS experience; little did she expect that a retiree with no GIS experience would be a perfect match.

Jon Rodman grew up in southern New Jersey, and graduated from Brown University in Rhode Island with a degree in Human Biology. He entered the toy industry, where he spent 42 years in a variety of marketing and management positions. After retiring from Mattel in El Segundo in 2017, Jon was looking for volunteer opportunities to give back to the community: "My youngest son had worked for the SBCCOG for a couple years on the Neighborhood Electric Vehicle in-home test program, so I was a little familiar with SBES and responded to a call for volunteers in Spring '18."

Seeing Carolyn's volunteer request and project description, Jon was intrigued, "I don't know GIS but I've always enjoyed maps and it looks interesting-maybe I could learn." The timing was perfect: he soon enrolled in an infrequently offered GIS course at El Camino College: "It turned out to be a great course,

great professor, and I came away not only with a functional competency in the basics of ArcMap, but also with an understanding of how to use online resources to self-learn what I didn't know."

Carolyn was still hesitant about whether one class would be sufficient for Jon to effectively contribute to the climate adaptation work. But Jon surprised Carolyn with how quickly he caught on: "Sure, there were some learning curves, but Jon is so organized and diligent he was able to complete tasks quickly with minimal assistance." With Carolyn's direction and feedback, Jon created nearly all the maps for the city vulnerability assessments and approximately half of the maps in the sub-regional climate adaptation plan - which includes the mapping of sea level rise inundation and cliff erosion projections, wildfire severity zones, flood zones, critical facilities, and the distribution of climate sensitive populations. Some of Jon's maps can be seen on the SBCCOG website, Climate Action Planning page: <http://www.southbaycities.org/programs/climate-action-planning/overview>

It was a mutually beneficial relationship.

"I liked that I got to learn something that was completely new to me and that I could contribute in a meaningful way.

I enjoyed the combination of science and art that goes into making a map that effectively communicates the story that you want to tell," said Jon.

At her going-away party at the end of her Fellowship, Carolyn re-emphasized how she couldn't have completed the project without Jon, and looks forward to how his new skillset can spread to other staff members to further serve the SBCCOG's programs.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at the SBCCOG, contact Martha Segovia @ martha@southbaycities.org



Find SBCCOG at www.sbesc.com
Find SBES at www.southbaycities.org

PLANNING FOR A LOCAL TRAVEL NETWORK IN THE SOUTH BAY

Continued from Page 1

Those South Bay destinations include stores, schools, places of business, entertainment, etc.

Maps are being created to test potential routes with city staff in public works, planning and law enforcement. Feedback will be sought about the barriers, issues and concerns that staff may have about the proposed routes in their respective cities. Information about street conditions, traffic signals and safety will help shape the network for the next iteration of review with Community Based Stakeholders.

The conceptual network will undergo further review by the stakeholders who are expected to use it. A series of workshops, meetings, and presentations designed to gather "real" feedback from potential slow-speed vehicle users - seniors, bicycle groups, neighborhood association members, as well as destination businesses and organizations - will be scheduled. Gathering

input, feedback and critical thoughts on the map segments will, ultimately, help create a network that will be safe and attractive to use.

This planning project exists in an ever-changing micro-mobility ecosystem where, seemingly, new vehicles are steadily finding their way onto South Bay streets. Many people have only heard about these new vehicles. Unique to this project, the general community will also have a chance to weigh in on the proposed routes at a very special community event next Spring 2020. The event goal is a fun-filled Saturday to introduce South Bay residents to the proposed network and TEST DRIVE many of the local use vehicles on the market today. The site location and date have yet to be determined, however, if you'd like to be on the LTN Team's event mailing list or would like further information, please contact Aaron Baum at aaron@southbaycities.org.

MANY FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

What does a person experiencing homelessness look like? There is no such thing as a “typical” homeless person. There are groups of people who experience homelessness in different ways, but all homelessness is characterized by extreme poverty coupled with a lack of stable housing.

Homelessness does not discriminate. An unexpected expense, loss of a job, divorce or separation, drug or alcohol use, mental illness, and family problems can become insurmountable.

Domestic violence, eviction, medical emergency or medical condition, or being part of the foster care system can impact anyone, leaving him

or her without a stable home. The person you sit next to at church or on the bus or at the movie theater may be homeless.

Children on their own or with their families, single adults, seniors, LGBTQ+ people, people of color, and

veterans make up various demographic groups that have differing factors that contribute to their homelessness.

There are those who experience homelessness for various lengths of time – short-term, long-term, or “chronic” – or those who experience multiple episodes of homelessness.

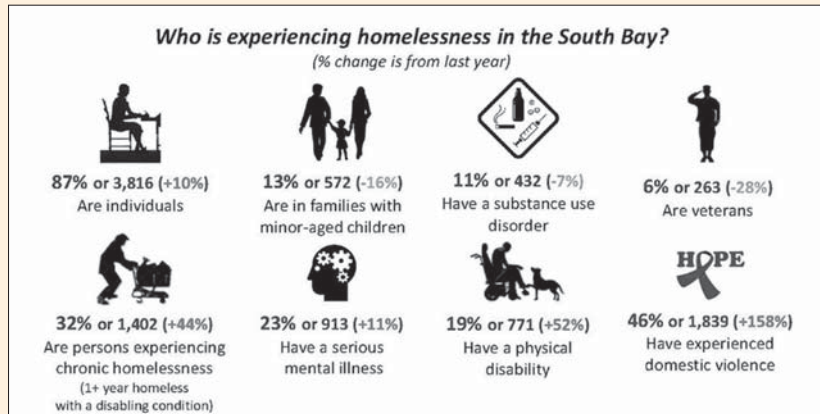
Some groups of people may be more likely to become homeless. The working poor and single-parent families with

children oftentimes may live in crowded housing and may be unable to afford a decent place to live while trying to clothe and feed their children. Women are vulnerable to becoming homeless as they are often victims of family violence and are more likely to live in poverty because they tend to earn less money than men. Many seniors face eviction and homelessness due to fixed incomes, increased rents, and a decline in physical and mental health.

We tend to see the extreme conditions on the street – those who use alcohol or substances and/or have mental health issues.

According to the experts, these individuals make up approximately 30% of those experiencing homelessness. The other 70% may be living in their vehicles, doubled up or couch surfing, or living in hidden, makeshift shelters.

Keep in mind - most people do not want to be homeless.



Source: South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness – 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

If you see someone who is experiencing homelessness and needs help, please use the Los Angeles County Homeless Outreach Portal (LA-HOP) on your smartphone, tablet, or computer - www.la-hop.org.

For more information and resources, please visit the SBCCOG’s webpage on Homeless Services in the South Bay: <http://southbaycities.org/programs/homeless-services-south-bay>.

FACES OF THE SBCCOG – STEVE LANTZ



Steve Lantz is the Transportation Director for the SBCCOG and is responsible for leading the development, funding, and administration of the SBCCOG’s highway, bus and rail initiatives. He also is the SBCCOG’s liaison to L. A. Metro and Caltrans.

Steve stays very busy directing the SBCCOG’s roles in developing, funding and delivering the Measure R South Bay Highway Program and the four (4) Measure M Multi-Year Sub-Regional Programs. He also monitors and advises the SBCCOG on the Green Line South rail extension, the I-105 ExpressLane, and numerous other inter-agency mobility projects and policy forums that require coordination across the South Bay and L. A. County.

Before joining the SBCCOG support staff in 2010, Steve was the Strategic Development and Communications Director at the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, a Multi-Modal Planning Director at L. A. Metro and Community Relations Manager at the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission. He was also the founding Executive Director of the Century City Chamber of Commerce and Managing Editor of a Century City publications company.

Steve was born and raised in Pasadena, Ca. and is a USC Journalism School graduate.

Whether you are reading Steve’s monthly transportation report to the SBCCOG Board of Directors, or a Public Works Director participating in technical discussions as a member of the SBCCOG Infrastructure Working Group, you will appreciate the clarity and depth of knowledge that Steve brings to his work in addressing a wide variety of complex transportation issues.

On behalf of the entire South Bay community, thank you Steve, for all your hard work!

The City of Torrance has received a grant from the California Green Business Network (CAGBN), which provides a certification program that helps businesses become more environmentally sustainable and responsible. Certification in the program includes the implementation of best management practices that address energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, and a number of other “green” practices that help businesses and save money.

Green Business Certification programs are a way for businesses to show their communities that they are committed to environmental values. Since 2018, the City of Torrance has partnered with over 15 local businesses to help reduce their environmental impacts. Certification is available free of charge to all Torrance businesses. SBCCOG staff supports business through the certification process and connects them to resources and incentives to support their efforts in areas such as water conservation, energy savings, recycling, alternative transportation, green purchasing and pollution prevention.

Businesses that achieve certification are recognized on the City website and social media channels, listed on the CAGBN database of green businesses, and

provided with a green kit. The kit consists of green cleaning products, sample green paper products, and a recycling trash can. ArchiveIT, a full-service records management company, (see photo) earned its certification by switching to energy efficient lighting, low flow toilets and recycled paper products.

In the last year, businesses in the Green Business Program saved over 1,461,037 pounds of CO2 which is equivalent to planting 2,271 acres of urban forests.

The businesses also have saved enough electricity to power 1 house and natural gas to heat 4,816 homes for an entire year.

The City of Torrance has partnered with the Environmental Services Center of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to help administer the grant.

In addition to Torrance, other South Bay cities are implementing green business certification programs as well, including Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, and Manhattan Beach. Information can be found on their cities’ websites.

To learn more about the Torrance program, please visit www.GreenBusinessCA.org or contact the SBCCOG Environmental Services Center

at martha@southbaycities.org, or the Torrance Office of Economic Development at EconomicDevelopment@TorranceCA.gov or by calling (310) 618-5807.



Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey and Guy Puckett, President and Founder of ArchiveIT receiving his green business certification decal to display at his business.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING TORRANCE CALIFORNIA GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK CERTIFIED BUSINESSES!

A Notary 2U • AMPLUS Group • Archive IT • Armitra Properties • Dogtopia • Dove Home Furniture • Ganahl Lumber • Mattress Firm Torrance • Miyako Hybrid Hotel • Moon Valley Nurseries • 9Round Torrance • Pepe The Tailor • South Bay Cities Council of Governments The Back Yard • 3-1 Development, Inc. • Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce • Walser’s

SANITATION DISTRICTS BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THE CLEARWATER PROJECT

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County operate and maintain the Joint Outfall System (JOS), the main sewer system that serves over 5 million people in the Los Angeles basin. The Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson is the largest wastewater (sewage) treatment plant in the system. Cleaned water from JWPCP is conveyed six miles to Royal Palms Beach in San Pedro via two tunnels and is then discharged approximately 1.5 miles off the coast through ocean outfalls.

CLEARWATER PROJECT

The Clearwater Project will protect local waterways by addressing aging infrastructure and involves constructing a 7-mile, 18-foot diameter tunnel to convey treated water from the JWPCP to existing ocean outfalls located at Royal Palms Beach. The project is the result of a multi-year planning effort that began in 2006 to identify improvements needed to ensure the reliability and future capacity needs of the JOS.

The existing tunnels (12- and 8-feet in diameter) are 60 and 80 years old, respectively, and are nearing the end of their service life. The existing tunnels are not built to current seismic (earthquake) standards, yet traverse two earthquake faults. Because the tunnels are interconnected and routine flow exceeds the capacity of the smaller tunnel, the tunnels cannot be removed from service for inspection or repair. Additionally, during heavy rains, water enters the sewer system causing higher than normal flows. The capacity of the existing tunnels was almost exceeded twice during storms in the last two decades, most recently in January 2017. The new

tunnel will be built to current seismic standards and have sufficient capacity to accommodate peak storm flows.

PROJECT DETAILS

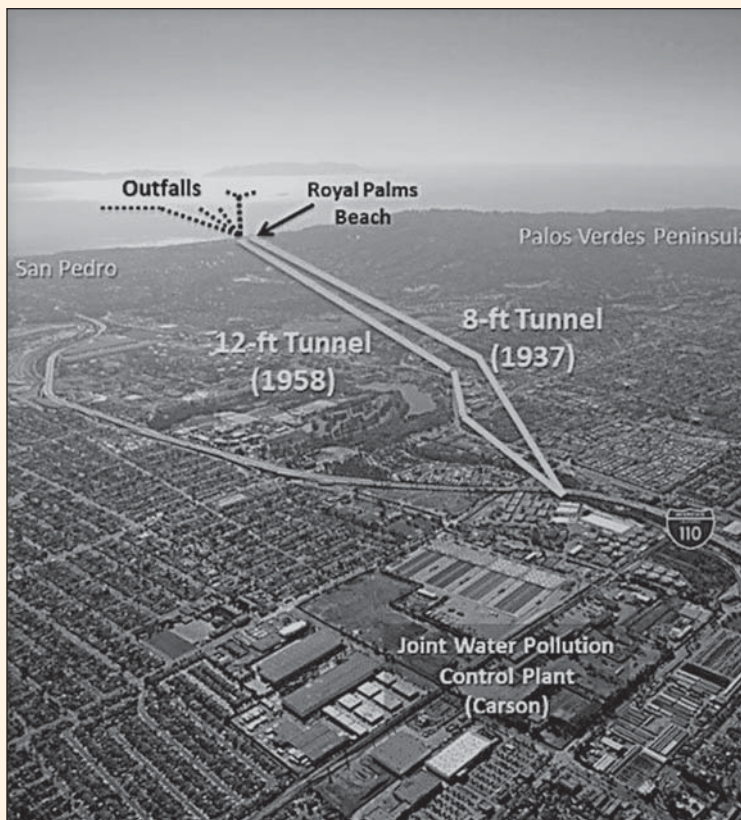
The new 7-mile long tunnel will be constructed mostly under public rights-of-way (streets). Depending on the overlying topography, the tunnel will be between 50 and 450 feet below ground. Construction started this year at the JWPCP, in Carson, where a shaft is being built to lower the tunnel boring machine (TBM) to the starting depth. All soil excavated during

tunneling will be removed at this shaft. A temporary shaft will be constructed at Royal Palms Beach to remove the TBM.

Tunneling is expected from 2021 to 2025. The work at Royal Palms Beach is anticipated to start in 2024 and finish in 2026. Public access to the beach will be maintained throughout the project.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

This fall, the Districts started outreach to schools near the tunnel alignment. With the School Outreach Program, it is hoped that students will be inspired to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by offering resources to schools—such as in-classroom presentations, bus tours of JWPCP, and visits to a cutting-edge water



Tunnel route: Carson Plant to Royal Palms Beach Outfall

purification facility.

To find out how your school can participate, see the District's school outreach webpage at www.clearwater.lacsd.org.

For more information, contact Mr. Glenn Acosta, Senior Engineer with the Sanitation Districts, at 562-908-4288, extension 2304, or gacosta@lacsd.org.

Food for Thought

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Source: <http://www.climateandweather.net/global-warming/effects-of-climate-change.html>


How will climate change affect us? There are many factors that will be affected by climate change including rising sea levels, drought and loss of agricultural land.

Increasing temperatures caused by climate change will make the water of the oceans expand; ice melting in the Antarctic and around Greenland will also contribute to the sea level. Sea levels could rise by as much as 25 to 50 centimeters by 2100. Greater sea levels will threaten low-lying coastal areas such as the Netherlands and Bangladesh, and millions of acres of land will be in danger from flooding, causing people to leave their homes. Low lying areas in cities will be hugely affected by the rising sea.

Changes in weather will affect many crops grown around world. Crops such as wheat and rice grow well in high temperatures, while plants such as maize and sugarcane prefer cooler climates. Changes in rainfall patterns will also affect how well plants and crops grow. The effect of a change in the weather on plant growth may lead to some countries not having enough food. Brazil, parts of Africa, south-east Asia and China will be affected the most and many people could be affected by hunger.

All across the world, there is a big demand for water and in many regions, such as central and eastern Africa there is not enough water for the people. Changes in the climate will change the weather patterns and will bring more rain in some countries, but others will have less rain, generally dry areas will become drier and wet areas could become wetter.

As climate change takes place, our daily weather and normal temperatures will change. The homes of plants and animals will be affected all over the world. Polar bears and seals are a good example of animals that will be affected by climate change. They will have to find new land for hunting and living if the ice in the Arctic melts, but the fact is more real that these species could become extinct.

Climate changes will affect everyone, but some populations will be at greater risk. Countries whose coastal regions have a large population, such as Egypt and China, may have to move whole populations inland to avoid flooding. The effect on people will depend on how well we can adapt to the changes and how much we can do to reduce climate change in the world. 



CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

November

- 4 Transportaton Committee Steering Committee
- 5 GIS Working Group
- 6 Homeless Services Task Force
- 13 Infrastructure Working Group
- 21 **Board of Directors & Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception**

December

- 9 Transportaton Committee Steering Committee
- Happy Holidays!!**

January 2020

- 7 GIS Working Group
- 8 Infrastructure Working Group Homeless Services Task Force (location TBD)
- 9 Legislative Briefing
- 13 Transportaton Committee Steering Committee
- 23 **Board of Directors**
- 28 Senior Services Working Group

Contact Jacki@southbaycities.org for further information.

Save the Date and Register for the Thursday, March 19, 2020:

General.Assembly@www.southbaycities.org

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The quarterly South Bay Watch is available electronically by email or at www.southbaycities.org. To receive by email, please send your email address to sbccog@southbaycities.org