

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

February 1, 2021

## FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

TO: South Bay Elected Officials  
South Bay City Managers  
SBCCOG Infrastructure Working Group  
SBCCOG Economic Development Directors Roundtable  
SBCCOG Homeless Services Committee  
South Bay Legislative Offices – state and federal  
Metro South Bay Service Council members  
Senior Services Working Group  
Transit Operators' Working Group  
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce  
South Bay Workforce Investment Board

South Bay City Clerks – Please Post

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director

RE: Call for Nominations for Metro South Bay Service Council

The South Bay Service Council has been in existence since 2003 and has been extremely successful. The dedicated people on our council have worked with Metro staff to make changes in service to improve efficiency and coordination of transit services provided by the Metro.

Service Council terms are staggered with 3 of the 9 positions expiring June 30 every year. The 3 members whose terms are expiring this June are: Don Szerlip, Charles Michel Deemer and Rochelle Mackabee.

Elected officials can hold no more than 4 seats on the Service Council. There are currently no elected officials on the Service Council.

**With this memo, the SBCCOG is opening nominations to fill the 3 expiring seats for a 3 year term.** Those members whose terms are expiring can be nominated again. There are no term limits. The boundaries of the South Bay region include the SBCCOG cities with the addition of the Watts/Willowbrook and LAX areas of L.A. City. The nominees must either live or work within the South Bay region boundaries.

The remainder of this memo outlines the issues related to how the SBCCOG will nominate and recommend Service Council members to the Metro Board with the assistance of each of our member cities and the county. **This memo also initiates the nomination period for you to send the names of prospective candidates to the SBCCOG @ [jacki@southbaycities.org](mailto:jacki@southbaycities.org) with a short bio and reason why they should be selected. The deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 5:00 pm.**

## PURPOSE OF THE METRO SERVICE COUNCILS

To improve bus service; increase agency accessibility and responsiveness; promote greater coordination; create a more efficient and customer focused structure for the delivery of bus service. Key principles are to bring service decisions to the local level; localize control; maintain a single point of contact for route level service issues; streamline the decision-making process; and support agency policies, plans and safety initiatives.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SERVICE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Service Councils shall oversee the planning and implementation of service within their area. Their responsibilities include: meeting attendance as well as responding to meeting notices to ensure quorums, calling and conducting public hearings for sector bus lines within our region; approval and evaluation of Service Council programs; implementing service changes; reviewing and developing policy recommendations for Metro Board approval; ensuring compliance with all Metro policies and procedures and legal agreements (e.g. collective bargaining agreements, Consent Decree); providing input into the Service Council Director performance review; and participating in quarterly meetings with the Metro Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and other Service Councils' Representatives. In the South Bay, there is also a requirement that members of the Council ride transit each month and report their experiences.

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Members of the Council must reside or work within the Service Council boundaries; they may be elected officials and/or private citizens. The members of the Council should reflect a broad spectrum of interests and geographic areas of the Service Council region. Metro has set a requirement that at least 50% of the Council members must be consumers of transit service. A regular public transit user is defined as one normally using public transit multiple times each month. The SBCCOG has also historically considered not only transit users, but also businesses that have an employee transportation program, transit operator representatives, or others who hold positions or have some background that would otherwise provide some familiarity with public transit.

Metro strives to appoint Service Council members reflective of the demographics of the respective region. For your reference, the 2019 American Community Survey demographics and 2019 Metro Ridership Survey demographics for the South Bay Cities region are compared to the current membership below:

% Region Total	Hispanic	White	Asian/ Pac Isl	Black	Native Amer	Other
South Bay Cities (SBC) Region	44.6%	21.6%	13%	17%	0.2%	3.7%
South Bay Cities Ridership	64%	5%	6%	22%	1%	3.7%
SBC Current Membership/No.	33% (3)	22% (2)	22% (2)	22% (2)	0%	0%

The gender makeup of the Council is six (6) men and three (3) women. This equates to 66.6% male and 33.3% female whereas Los Angeles County is 49.7% male and 50.3% female.

Membership is not transferable or assignable and is for a 3 year staggered term. Service Councils can have up to 9 members. Council members receive a meeting stipend of \$100 per meeting for a maximum of two meetings per month. They also receive a Metro badge that provides them unlimited use of Metro Bus and Rail services.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

Service Council members are required to comply with Metro's rigorous Code of Conduct. Provisions include: any one doing business with the Metro must register as a lobbyist and Council members may not accept gifts aggregating more than \$10 in a calendar month from a Metro registered lobbyist, lobbying firm or lobbyist employer. The full text of the Code of Conduct is available upon request. Service Council members are also required to complete an annual Form 700 Annual Statement of Economic Interests and to complete biennial AB 1234 Ethics training for local officials.

### SBCCOG TIMETABLE

With the distribution of this memo, the SBCCOG nomination process for South Bay Service Council is started. The schedule for nominations is as follows:

Thursday, March 25	Nomination deadline
Monday, April 12	Steering Committee will review nominations and forward their recommendations to the SBCCOG Board
Thursday, April 22	SBCCOG Board will approve nominations to send to Metro Board
Thursday, June 24	Metro Board ratifies South Bay Service Council members
Friday, July 9	South Bay Service Council members are sworn in

### SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOUTH BAY SERVICE COUNCIL

#### COMPOSITION

The SBCCOG Board of Directors has previously stated a strong preference that transit users or those familiar with the South Bay transit services be city council members and in no case shall elected officials represent a majority of the Board. Since other Service Councils have elected officials on their boards, the South Bay Service Council should include at least some elected officials in order to have the same "status" before the Metro Board as the other Service Councils. A mix of tenures on the Council at any given time has also served to preserve the historic or institutional memory of the Council.

Some other factors that were previously discussed for inclusion are the participation of:

- Our municipal operators – Gardena, Torrance, Redondo Beach & L.A. City
- Our community operators – Carson, PV Transit, Lawndale, Municipal Area Express
- Community members (Metro South Bay Citizens' Advisory Committee representatives? members from the Metro or municipal operators' Passenger Advisory Committees?)
- Cities with the most transit riders – Inglewood, L.A. City
- Employers in the South Bay that have transportation programs
- A City Manager, the COG, etc.
- A city Public Works Director/Transportation staff
- A senior transit user
- A School District Transportation representative

An example:

1. Elected official from Northern South Bay
2. Elected official from Southern South Bay
3. User (senior? business? school?)
4. User
5. Municipal Operator
6. Community Operator
7. City Public Works Director
8. City Transportation Director from a city with high transit use
9. Metro CAC member from the South Bay

#### TERMS EXPIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Don Szerlip – Appointed 1/24/2008
  - Redondo Beach businessman
- Charles Michel Deemer – Appointed 6/25/2015
  - Torrance Environmental Commissioner
  - Transit Rider
- Rochelle Mackabee – July 2020
  - Resident of South Central Los Angeles
  - Transit rider

#### CURRENT MEMBERS ON THE COUNCIL

- Roye Love – Appointed 1/27/2011
  - Senior
  - Transit Rider
  - Member of community groups in Carson
- Ernie Crespo – 6/23/2016
  - Gardena Transit Manager representing Municipal Transit Operators
- Elaine Jeng – Appointed 6/23/2016, previously served 6/26/2014-6/12/2015
  - Manhattan Beach resident & rider
  - Civil Engineer
  - Rolling Hills City Manager
- David Mach – 6/25/20
  - Torrance Transit employee and rider
- Ernie Crespo – 6/23/2016
  - Gardena Transit Manager representing Municipal Transit Operators
- Luis Duran – July 2017
  - Hermosa Beach resident
  - LA County land use planner
  - Rides transit daily

#### REACHING CONSENSUS

Our Service Council has been a representative group of user-oriented problem solvers who devote the time to really understanding transit service in general and the needs of the South Bay in particular. Our goal is to continue that representation by looking for

nominees in the categories outlined above with diverse geographic representation from all parts of the South Bay.

**INFORMATION REQUESTED**

**No later than Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 5 pm, please submit your nominees with a short bio for each, and a short explanation as to why they should be selected. Self-nominations are acceptable as is submitting via e-mail.**

For further information or documents from Metro, please contact Jacki Bacharach @ 310-293-2612 or @ [jacki@southbaycities.org](mailto:jacki@southbaycities.org)