

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Progress Park, 15500 Downey Avenue  
Paramount, California  
September 7, 2016**

President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Al Austin, City of Long Beach  
First Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Second Vice President Fernando Dutra  
Immediate Past President Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia  
Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon  
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Jim Edwards, City of Cerritos  
Member Iven Altamirano, City of Commerce  
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton  
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy  
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey  
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood  
Member Thomas Martin, City of Maywood  
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello  
Member Cheri Kelley, City of Norwalk  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate  
Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Member KeAndra Dodds, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis  
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

**ABSENT:** Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry  
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach  
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera

ALSO PRESENT: Maywood Council Member Ricardo Villarreal; Signal Hill Council Member Larry Forester; South Gate Mayor William "Bill" DeWitt; Supervisor Hilda Solis; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti; Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Signal Hill City Manager Charlie Honeycutt; South Gate City Manager Michael Flad; Bell Gardens Public Works Director Chau Vu; La Mirada Director of Public Works Mark Stowell; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Diana Tang; Pico Rivera Director of Public Works James Enriquez; Vernon Director of Public Works Derek Wieske; Jonathan Kraus, Office of Long Beach Councilmember Al Austin; Elizabeth Alcantar, Field Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Kimberly Ortega, Field Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Javier Hernandez, Transportation Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Lance Grindle, Head, City/Unincorporated Services, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Angela Driscoll, Government Relations, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Ken Pellman, Public Information Officer, County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures; John Fasana, Chair, MTA Board of Directors; Saeed Ali, Policy Analyst, Office of Senator Tony Mendoza; Stephanie Wiggins, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Metro; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco Rapid Transit; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Kevin Gilhooley, Regional Affairs, SCAG; Danielle Soto, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Gary Slater, Deputy District Director, Caltrans District 7; Paul Worlie, Government Relations and Public Affairs Specialist, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker; Andres Molina, Government Relations Representative, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff; Jeff Fromhertz, Senior Project Manager, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff; Mario Beltran, President, Principia Group, LLC; Catherine Lew, Principal, Lew Edwards Group; Bryan Godbe, Godbe Research; Rohnda Ammouri, GCCOG Consultant; Tracy Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer, Biz Fed; Brandon Matson, Policy Manager, Biz Fed; Marlene Grossman, Chair of the Leadership Board, Move LA; Jerard Wright, Move LA; Bryan Moller, Planning & Policy Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition; Ron Miller, Executive Secretary, Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades; Yvette Kirrin, GCCOG Consultant Engineer/Executive Director, I-5 JPA; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Z. Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by First Vice President Pineda.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Marlene Grossman, Chair of the Leadership Board, Move LA, said she is working in support of the West Santa Ana Branch project. She said that, in the spirit of unanimity, she urged that we continue to talk and that we have something special in Measure M.

John Hanna, Carpenters Union, said his organization has 50,000 members in the southwest, many of whom live in these cities and face the same transportation problems. He said he urged the Board to not throw out the baby with the bathwater, but to have us down to leverage funding for our projects. He said if you think you'll get a better deal next time, think again.

Ron Miller, Executive Secretary, Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades, said we are your vocational program, working with the community colleges to train the workforce. He said another tax measure won't happen four years from now. He urged the Board to listen to all the speakers tonight and to consider rescinding its "no" vote.

Jerard Wright, Move LA, said Measure M is an opportunity for the I-5 and I-710 south projects to form a coalition and work with congressional staffs to bring our fair share back from the federal government.

Tracy Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer, Biz Fed, asked for reconsideration of the Board's position on Measure M. She thanked Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia for coming out in favor of Measure M.

Eddie Tafoya, Commerce Industrial Chamber of Commerce, said all of the businesses in Commerce bring a tremendous amount of traffic into the city. He said it always seems that the southeast part of the county gets the short end of the stick. He said if we don't accelerate the I-5 project to I-710, the businesses won't survive. He urged that there be help to accelerate the last leg of the I-5 project.

Signal Hill Council Member Larry Forester spoke against Measure M, saying his city will be sending \$7 million in tax revenues annually to MTA and receiving back a return of \$188,000.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Saleh, seconded by Member Davis, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Austin announced that he was taking Report B out of order at this time.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti addressed the Board, saying here was there to encourage the Board to support Measure M or at least take a neutral position. He referred the Board to a letter that he had sent to President Austin in which he addressed many of the Board's concerns regarding Measure M.

Member Hurtado said that he was the one who had made the original motion that the Board oppose Measure M and reviewed how the Board go to where it was.

Mayor Garcetti said everything in the measure is based on population and that not moving forward at all is a failure.

Member Daniels said the issue is mistrust. He said we supported Measure R because we had projects in it. He said the new measure moves projects ahead of ours. He said the reason we came up with the education program is that we are paying taxes to support projects in other areas, and these are taxes from disadvantaged communities.

Mayor Garcetti said no line will move faster than Eco Rapid Transit. He said the truth is that the population that generates the money in the subregion receives the projects.

Member Delgado asked if the Gateway Cities receive \$24 million in the first year, how much are we putting in in taxes? Mayor Garcetti said he would get back with a response. MTA Board Chairman John Fasana said clearly there are winners and losers, but we can look at altering the formula.

Member Delgado asked what can you realistically do for us? Mayor Garcetti responded that the details were in his letter.

Member Hurtado said that when he made the motion to oppose Measure M he wanted to get people to the table, knowing that the failure of the measure would mean that we get nothing.

Member Wilson said promised were made that changed positions regarding Measure R. He said there were a lot of opportunities to bring our concerns into this measure and they were not put in. He said things that are not in the measure can't be guaranteed later. Supervisor Hilda Solis said she remembered opposing Measure R because the San Gabriel Valley did not get the things we wanted. She said this process was a very successful "bottoms up" process. She said she was here to support Measure M.

Member Marquez asked how we can accelerate our projects and how they are guaranteed. Mayor Garcetti responded that the timeline of Eco Rapid Transit had already been adjusted by seven years. He said the dates that are in the measure are the most conservative dates that MTA could put in there. He said companies are salivating over the bonding possibilities and we could go to Wall Street and get these commitments.

Member Hernandez asked if the allocation of local return would change as the population changes and what Mayor Garcetti's position is regarding Senator Mendoza's proposal to restructure the MTA Board. Mayor Garcetti responded that the higher of population growth or employment growth projections were chosen for each of the subregions. He said he is open to consideration of the governance issue.

First Vice President Pineda asked how many jobs would be created. Supervisor Solis responded that 400,000 jobs would be created and that there would be a domino effect.

Member Kelly asked how we can look our residents in the eye and say that we have been promised things that are not in the ballot measure. She said all we have is what is written into the measure.

Member Wilson said the letter is the letter and that is the law—that is what people are voting on, not the promises. He said we should have had this discussion prior to the measure being finalized.

Member Daniels said if Measure M were written correctly we wouldn't be taking this position.

Member Hurtado said his goal was to bring people to the table and we have done that.

It was moved by Member Zamora, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Marquez, seconded by Second Vice President Dutra, to bring back reconsideration of the Board's position regarding Measure M at the next meeting. President Austin asked for a show of hands for and against the motion and announced that the motion had passed by a show of hands.

Ken Pellman, Public Information Officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures, and Paul Worlie, Government Relations and Public Affairs Specialist, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program. They discussed the huanglongbing (HLB) fatal citrus disease caused by a tiny insect, the Asian citrus psyllid, that feeds on citrus plants. They said 6 of 10 residential properties have a citrus tree and each one of them is at risk. Infected trees will die and need to be removed. They discussed the testing and inspection process used by the County and stressed the importance of sharing information and for the public to cooperate with the trapping, inspection, treatment, and tree removal program in order to save the remaining citrus trees.

Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan introduced Catherine Lew, Principal, Lew Edwards Group, and Bryan Godbe, President, Godbe Research, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on their recent countywide telephone survey of likely voters regarding attitudes towards Measure M. They reviewed the findings and showed that as more information regarding the measure and the timing of projects was revealed, support for the measure declined. They said that over the course of the 20-minute survey, support for the measure dropped to 58%, which would put it far short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file reports A and C. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee recommending the appointment of Joseph Strapac to fill the current vacancy for a public member of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council for a term ending June 30, 2017.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Cassidy, to approve the nomination of Joseph Strapac to fill the vacancy for a public member on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nancy Pfeffer, COG Director of Regional Planning, presented a report recommending that the COG provide \$12,700 in cost sharing of a CivicSpark fellow for a, eleven-month period to assist staff in the development of a potential COG-wide Climate Action Plan Framework from which member jurisdictions could prepare localized climate action plans. She said an equal amount of funding would be provided by the Southern California Gas Company. She said the fellow would be housed at the City of Norwalk.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the cost sharing of the CivicSpark fellow. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Dunton, seconded by Member Hurtado, to table to the next meeting the reports from committees and agencies with the exception of the report from PATH. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that the representative from PATH had to leave the meeting but had asked him to share the report, which he handed out, containing the updated Homeless Count numbers and July outreach statistics. He announced that the date for the Homeless Summit had been set for October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from the President.

**Adjournment:** It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.