

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Boulevard  
Paramount, California  
March 23, 2017**

President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: President Al Austin, City of Long Beach  
First Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Second Vice President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier  
Immediate Past President Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens  
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton  
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate  
Member Doug Drummond, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ABSENT: Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach  
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Member Luigi Vernola, City of Norwalk  
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier

ALSO PRESENT: Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Analyst Karen Heit; GCCOG Engineer Yvette Kirrin; Gateway Cities COG Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Austin.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

Yvette Kirrin, Kekoa Anderson, and Karen Heit gave a PowerPoint presentation on the COG's Current Major Projects and Initiatives. Transportation projects discussed included: the alternatives for the improvement of the I-710 freeway corridor; improvements to the SR-91/I-605/I-405 corridor and intersection hot spots; the I-5 Corridor Improvement Project; the Eco Rapid Transit project; the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase II project; and the proposed Metro Green Line extension to the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink station. Transportation planning efforts discussed were the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan and the I-710 Livability Initiative. Karen Heit reviewed the Cap and Trade program, the Economic Development Working Group's activities, including the outreach efforts with the manufacturing sector; and the Gateway Connections program for the homeless.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Immediate Past President Saleh, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Karen Heit and Jack Joseph gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Sources of Funds for the COG's Operations, Programs, and Projects. Karen Heit explained that the overwhelming source of funding for the major transportation projects comes from Measure R, with \$590 million available over 30 years each to the two major freeway corridor projects, I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405. Karen Heit reviewed the process by which these funds are accessed for regional and city projects, and which are held and administered by the MTA. Jack Joseph reviewed the COG's operational budget, which he said constitutes only a small fraction of the total dollars in the COG's overall program. He said the major sources of funding are city dues and transportation corridor assessments, MTA grants, and the County Homeless Grant.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Saleh, seconded by Second Vice President Dutra, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Austin said he was tabling the item relating to the Joint Powers Agreement and COG Bylaws and asked the Executive Committee members to review the documents and familiarize themselves with them.

Karen Heit reported that she had been thoroughly reviewing the draft Measure M expenditure guidelines and indicated the dozens of comments and notations she had made on the document. She explained the background to the inclusion of a Sub-regional Equity Fund in the Measure M expenditure plan.

President Austin said the reason he had requested an agenda item regarding the strategic planning for the sub-regional equity funds is that the COG should get its plan together and prioritized the use of these funds.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by First Vice President Pineda, to give direction to staff to come back with options regarding the use of Measure M Sub-regional Equity funds. The motion was approved unanimously.

Second Vice President Dutra thanked the President for putting together this meeting and stressed the importance of the COG working to assure that this sub-region gets its fair share of funding.

Member Wilson said the COG needs to set a vision and pass it on as new Board members arrive. He said the Board should have minimum expectations of those who represent the COG on outside committees with regard to attendance and leadership. He cited SCAG committees as an example.

Member Daniels said the COG has come a long way from its beginning and that everybody's input is important.

President Austin said it is good to set reasonable goals and clear priorities. He said he would like to have this meeting again soon.

President Austin said that they should do an evaluation of the Executive Director and have a closed session to discuss an assessment tool. He said he would put on the Board agenda the creation of a Human Resources Subcommittee of a small group to do the evaluation.

Immediate Past President Saleh said the Executive Committee is a small enough group so that all could be involved in the evaluation.

Member Wilson responded that a small group would be much more effective to get the work done and cited his city council's subcommittees as an example.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Saleh to adjourn. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary