

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Blvd.  
Paramount, California  
March 4, 2020**

GCCOG President Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

**PRESENT:** President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood (E)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon (E)  
Member Tony Lima City of Artesia  
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower (E)  
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens  
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton  
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill (E)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate (E)  
Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier (E)  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs (E)  
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn (E)  
Member Martin Reyes, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis  
Member Steven Neal, Port of Long Beach

**ABSENT:**

Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy  
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos (E)  
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce (E)  
Member Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park (E)  
Member Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello  
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk  
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey (E)  
Member Cory Moss, City of Industry  
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada (E)  
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach  
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood  
Member Ricardo Lara, City of Maywood  
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach (E)  
Member Brenda Olmos, City of Paramount  
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
(E) Executive Committee

ALSO PRESENT: Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager - City of Lakewood, Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison, POLB, Julia Brown – Community Relations Manager, LA Metro, Norman Emerson – Emerson Associates, Nancy Pfeffer, Julia Stewart, Stephanie Cadena, Gilbert Saldade, Joel Arevalos, Karen Heit, Ivy Tsai, Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Legislative Director - Senator Lena Gonzalez, Vaniah De Rojas, Assistant to the City Manager – Downey, Sarah Patterson – SCAG, Kristine Guerrero – Public Affairs Manager – League of California Cities, Eric Shen – US Maritime Administration, Nancy Michali – Michali Consulting, Brenda Rodriguez, Administrative Analyst – City of Cudahy, Karen Lee, Administrative Analyst – City of Artesia, Mark Stowell, Director Public Works – City of La Mirada, David Torres, Councilmember – City of Montebello, Danielle Soto, Public Affairs Mgr. – AQMD, Luis Marquez.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cinde Cassidy.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Matters from the Executive Director. GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer announced that the West Santa Ana Branch City Manager's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had two meetings and that there is a recommendation in this agenda to hire Michali Consulting to staff the effort. The WSAB TAC selected a Chair, John Moreno, City Manager of Paramount and Vice-Chair, Gilbert Livas, City Manager of Downey. She stated that the information shared by the MTA has been useful to the cities and the process has been informative. She then reviewed the COG's commercial zoning/affordable housing zoning proposal that requires a change in state law. She indicated that there is a sponsor for the bill, SB 1179, and that the bill is currently in the quiet period where there are refinements to the language and a methodology for satisfying school districts is under development. Past President Fernando Dutra asked her to provide a review of the policy proposal and she went over the elements of the proposal including that element that the cities be allowed to keep 100% of the property tax to pay for the services engendered by additional housing.

Pfeffer announced the availability of the Local Early Action Plan (LEAP) program and that this is one-time money and she would like to see 100% of Gateway's jurisdiction requesting these non-competitive funds. Funds range from \$50k to \$500k depending on population and there are no barriers to cities receiving the funds.

Exec. Dir. Pfeffer next updated the Board on the upcoming COG regional conference and retreat in Avalon scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>; the program is being refined and will include a session on freight. There will be a tour of the island's power/recycling plant. She pointed out the revised staff report for Consent Calendar Item G that was at each setting with corrections.

The consent calendar was approved

Exec. Dir. Pfeffer went on to discuss an item concerning the allocation of \$393 million to repair the Whittier Narrows Dam. This allocation was secured by Congressman Grace Napolitano and the recommendation before the COG Board was to write her a formal thank you letter. COG President Diane DuBois pointed out that dam failure would result in 4 feet of water in Lakewood. Member Brent Tercero of Pico Rivera spoke about the potential impact on Pico Rivera and the estimated 15 feet of water would cause a significant loss of life in the city. Councilman Tercero wants to see that funds could go to local contractors to the greatest extent possible. President DuBois asked COG Counsel, Ivy Tsai, to look into that. Tsai said it should be brought back to the COG Board formally as an idea and that staff could investigate. Staff was instructed to add language to the letter suggesting local contracting. The letter will be revised to ask for consideration of local hire and contracting. With no objections, the letter with revisions was ordered to be sent out.

Exec. Dir. Pfeffer introduced Eric Shen, US Maritime Administration, to give an overview of maritime freight. Shen also teaches logistics in the USC Department of Engineering, as well as worked in logistics for the Port of Long Beach for 8 years. Shen stated that the opinions expressed in his presentation do not reflect the official views of the US Maritime Administration. He commended the COG cities for taking a leadership role in the outcome of freight movement. Shen mentioned that there are strings associated with federal money along with strict rules for the pursuit of federal money. He discussed where the Maritime Administration falls within the Department of Transportation (DOT) and gave a broad overview of what the Agency does. He discussed the DOT emphasis on rural transportation and the scarcity of resources; this impacts funds to urban areas like LA County. He described how the Maritime Administration collaborates with FTA and FHWA.

Shen went over the purpose of the Maritime Administration: to foster the merchant marine and maritime activity. Although the US is a great Maritime nation, it has a very small training facility which explains why there is limited maritime operation of ships. The US Maritime Administration itself has 47 vessels that function for military or humanitarian support.

Shen fast forwarded to an infrastructure grant slide that outlined the investment in San Pedro Bay Ports (SPBP). He encouraged the COG cities to keep applying for grants and to not passively allow money to go unopposed to other regions. He talked a little about the long lead time for project implementation. He mentioned the support that is needed. He compared the freight cargo flow in 2002 with the estimate for 2035. He went on to discuss peak hour freight traffic congestion in 2002 as opposed to 2035.

He advised the COG to look at increasing throughput within a limited space and balance trucks with other modes; to leverage the need with opportunity. Lastly, he discussed the traffic congestion and the designation of the SPBP as national assets. He talked about the \$800 million for the Gerald Desmond Bridge which exemplifies the importance of the SPBP. He ended with his contact information and offered to give presentations to any city that requested.

President DuBois introduced Lakewood City Manager, Thaddeus McCormack, who gave an update on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process. McCormack drew attention to letters in the Agenda drafted by the City of Cerritos that challenge the allocation methodology. He indicated that the assignment of RHNA goals is very divisive. There is a SCAG Regional Council meeting tomorrow where the proposed methodology will be validated. The GCCOG portion of the 1.34 million housing allocation is going to be unachievable. McCormack asked that cities send planning directors to the meeting to object to the methodology. The City of Los Angeles led a move to change the methodology and Orange County received more housing under the revised methodology. The Cerritos recommended methodology reduces the number of housing units assigned to most cities. McCormack stated that Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach, is proposing another methodology that balances housing.

McCormack asked for questions. Tony Lima, City of Artesia, asked who is going to build all of these homes. McCormack answered that the RHNA process affects zoning not necessarily determining who builds the housing. Lima stated that no one wants to build or have low-income homes in their jurisdictions; the economic model is not sustainable. Zoning is not the complete answer, the private sector constraints and financing must be addressed. Ali Saleh, City of Bell, asked about the numbers that were developed by the City of Anaheim. McCormack did not want to pass out non-confirmed numbers. The Riverside/Los Angeles County proposal is on the SCAG agenda for tomorrow.

President DuBois asked for the transportation update. Metro Board Member, Mayor Robert Garcia of Long Beach was not present so Past President Fernando Dutra gave the report from the February MTA Board Meeting that he attended.

At that meeting, the Metro Board selected the Washington Blvd. Alignment for the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase 2; the alignment preferred by the Gateway COG. He went over the staff decision to move the Washington Blvd. Alignment forward through final environmental review based on fatal flaws and issues with the SR-60 Alignment. Dutra reviewed the estimated \$10 billion price tag. He discussed the Metro Board's unfortunate allocation of \$635 million to the San Gabriel Valley away from the MGLEEPH2 project. The result of the diversion of this funding issue is there is even less funding for the Washington Blvd. Alignment. Dutra would like to see the funding reallocated in support of the chosen alignment stating that it's a \$10 billion project and it's short. Martin Reyes, Office of Supervisor Solis, explained the motion that gave money to San Gabriel Valley. Reyes stated that they are going to try and backfill the \$635 million that is "due" the San Gabriel Valley. Dutra wants a message to go back to the Supervisor that the funding should go to the Alignment and not the subregion. Ed Wilson wanted a clarification of the funding. Reyes mentioned the 2008 "Five-Point plan" and that there was a "recommendation" and that although the recommendation didn't make it into Measure R they thought it should go to the San Gabriel Valley. Wilson stated the Measure funds should be dedicated to the project and not to the cities. The selected alignment serves all the cities described in the project description.

Karen Heit, COG Transportation Analyst, provided a brief update on Motion 51 made by Metro Board members about compliance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-19-19. Metro's highway program is aligned with state goals for congestion relief; the majority of the projects do just that. All of the COG freeways except for the I-105 were designed back in the 1950s, trucks have gotten much bigger and faster and there are bottlenecks and safety issues with the design of the older freeways. The MTA response to the Executive Order says that the highway program meets the requirements for congestion relief and reduction. There are some capacity enhancements. The draft COG letter supports the MTA position. A Motion to approve passed.

The next item was on AB 101, Exec. Dir. Pfeffer indicated that every city is eligible for this funding and she talked about the SB 2 planning grants and the workshops that occurred and that 24 out of 27 cities applied. The COG hosted a housing symposium to make known the opportunities in the Gateway Cities subregion. She requested approval of the 1% allocation from the AB 101 funding and its use to facilitate the COG's housing agenda. Ray Dunton, City of Bellflower, made the motion to approve seconded by Bill Davis, City of Vernon.

President DuBois called upon the COG Homeless Coordinator, Gilbert Saldate, to present on the COG Homeless Program. He went over his activities starting with the City of Bell, stating that when he prepares a presentation, he brings the support services with him that serve the city. He talked about the January homeless count and opined that the numbers would most likely increase. He went over upcoming funding and information opportunities on supportive housing as well as funding availability. He also announced that Dr. Robert Marbut, who oversees federal efforts on homelessness, would be addressing the Regional Homelessness Summit. Saldate also discussed the identification of an opportunity to address a pilot project in SPA 7 (Gateway Cities) and SPA 4.

Saldate went on to describe how homelessness was addressed in the past and compared to how it is being addressed now. The services now concentrate on the worst-case homeless person as a priority as opposed to the recently homeless person. This renders the recently homeless in a position to get worse while they wait to qualify for housing and supportive systems. He wants to use the County-provided innovation money to push for rapid re-employment and rapid rehousing for the recently homeless in partnership with SELACO. Saldate went on to explain the way to measure success will be through Results-Based Accountability (RBA) which is consistent with the Governor's plan. Past President Dutra asked how this applies to the individual city. Saldate answered that the creation of collaborations of the homeless outreach and the job training agencies like WIBs will provide the cities with assistance. How about working with the unions? Maybe paying the dues or helping the homeless individual apply for a driver's license might be activities.

Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, reported on the latest efforts on the declaration of a state of emergency for the Coronavirus. The declaration makes funds available for services to combat the virus. The County requested \$7.5 million for communications and a Coronavirus response plan. There are six new cases from

traceable, known sources. Chico says there are conference calls that update the information.

There were no matters from the President and no matters from the COG Board.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director