

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
Chair - MTA Director, Long Beach Mayor - Robert Garcia  
Gateway Cities COG Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723  
June 3, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, Thaddeus McCormack – City Manager, City of Lakewood, Martin Reyes – Supervisor Hilda Solis Office, Lisa Rapp – City of Lakewood, Maria Davila – First Vice President, Gateway Cities COG – City of South Gate, Commissioner Steven Neal – POLB, Tracy Beidleman – Long Beach Transit, Rachel Roque – Supervisor Hahn’s Office.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Weissman – Metro Transportation Deputy, Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit, Stephanie Cadena, Joel Arevalos - GCCOG staff, Theresa Dau-Ngo, Manager, Transportation Development, Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison, Matt Arms – Port of Long Beach, Nalini Ahuja, Melissa Wang, Mark Dierking, Nadine Lee, Kalieh Honish, Mark Yamarone, Meghna Khanna, Michael Turner, Raffi Hamparian, Michelle Navarro – Metro, Andres Molina – WSP, Luke Klipp – Metro Transportation Deputy, Mayor Garcia’s Office

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm, by COG First Vice-President and Committee Vice-Chair Maria Davila. Roll call was taken by self-introduction. Vice-Chair Davila announced that COG President Diane DuBois was under the weather this evening and would not attend the meeting.

There was no general public comment.

The Consent Calendar was approved by affirmation.

Sharon Weissman announced that due to the civil crisis, Mayor Garcia was not available to lead the meeting. Weissman gave the report on the actions of the May MTA Board Meeting. She announced the approval of free parking at all rail stations during the COVID-19 outbreak and the reallocation of \$835,000 of business development funds to loan to small businesses adjacent to (1/2 mile) from rail stations. She announced that the Board approved the recommended I-710 Early Action funding for the Shoemaker Bridge to match the allocated SB 1 grant. She reported that the Board also approved a fare reduction during this period to assist people that are out of work.

The Board passed a Motion asking for a process for the allocation of Subregional Equity Program (SEP) funds and that the Board is required to seek subregional action to allocate the funds if the Board chooses.

The current Open Streets program was modified to change the allowed expenditure from a one-day event to a longer period to utilize on-street activity to enhance social distancing and provide for economic recovery. Vice-Chair Davila asked for any questions. The

report was received and filed. Weissman announced that she was going to retire and that the Mayor has appointed her to the Long Beach Harbor Commission. Various Committee members expressed their gratitude to Sharon for her service and wished her well.

Vice-Chair Maria Davila introduced Item A and Nadine Lee, Metro Chief Operating Officer. Lee yielded some time to Rachel Roque, the new Committee member from Supervisor Hahn's Office, who was not able to be heard. Lee began by thanking Sharon for her work on the MTA.

Lee reviewed ridership statistics during the pandemic and the resultant implementation of enhanced Sunday service. The service was enhanced to enable social distancing. She indicated that in the aftermath of COVID there will need to be confidence built into regaining ridership. Lee introduced the MTA Financial Team led by Michelle Navarro who gave an update on the MTA Budget and the \$1.8 billion in CARES Act funding. The Board approved a funding swap for transit agencies that could not receive federal funding. The CARES Act provides revenue to maintain service levels and provide supplemental funding.

Navarro explained that MTA passed a continuing resolution that will maintain current spending levels for 3 months. She discussed the impact on city-bound local return funds that will be reduced in the fourth quarter of the year. She reviewed the budget process for 2020. CEO Phil Washington created a call for action to reduce expenses within the new revenue expectations. She went on to explain next steps including continuing to analyze and monitor COVID-19 impacts and enforcing belt tightening measures.

Past President Fernando Dutra asked about the status of the four pillar projects. He asked if the pillar projects are put on hold and waiting for a determination of viability in September. He asked how the three months of COVID-19 economic impact so negatively affected the ability of projects to move forward.

Lee responded outlining the 2 project buckets; the first bucket being projects under construction and transit service. She indicated that the deferral may not be a hard stop. The deferral is related to cash flow issues for 3-6 months. Each project will require analysis and evaluation. She highlighted additional costs associated with cleaning and sanitizing transit service. The ongoing cash needs to be commensurate to the cash coming in. She referenced Motion 34.1 that asks for more clarity on project futures. Lee opined that recovery will most likely exceed a 12 month timeframe. The March sales tax receipts included only a part of shelter in place revenue receipts. Dutra asked, if project funding is available will the project proceed? Lee said the loss of revenue may not actually recover and that she had a chart that would represent the actual status.

Lee introduced Michael Turner and Raffi Hamparian to give the governmental outlook. Turner gave the state update and the impact on the state budget. Turner spoke about the drop in gas tax receipts because of shelter in place. The transportation budget is somewhat walled off from sources at the state. Cap & Trade may be at risk for a grab for the general fund. Turner turned it over to Raffi Hamparian, Senior Director of federal

affairs. He talked about the Heroes Act with approximately \$15 billion each for transit and highways. The Heroes bill has been passed by the House and was sent to the Senate where its fate is uncertain. The Invest in America Act was introduced by Chairman De Fazio, passed a few hours ago in DC by the House, a five-year \$500-billion reauthorization bill to replace the FAST Act. This bill might reintroduce the Highways of national significance that has benefitted the Gerald Desmond and the I-405 projects in the past. The bill also contains local hire provisions. Vice-Chair Davila asked for any questions, seeing none, she introduced the topic of the Metro Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Kalieh Honish gave a presentation on the LRTP, which is being circulated for public comment. She explained how the LRTP fits into conformity findings at the regional level. She indicated that the LRTP needs to align with SCAG's schedule. She talked about how the plan supports MTA's goals and objectives, including four themes: better public transit, less congestion, complete streets, access to opportunity; and briefly discussed strategies to address the four elements. She went on to talk about the partnerships that are needed to accomplish the goals. The benefits of the 2020 LRTP were discussed next including quantifiable reductions in GHG and congestion. She discussed strategies such as fare reduction and increasing speed that should increase transit ridership. She went over the expected expenditure of the anticipated \$400 billion for the next 30 years. She reviewed programs and strategies that will be implemented that are beyond the capital expenditures.

Vice-Chair Davila called for questions and COG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer reminded the Chair of the time. Next up was Lisa Rapp, Chair - Public Works Directors and Metro TAC representative. Rapp went over the 50% reduction in fares, and the resultant marketing campaign. She reviewed the impact of the halt in bus and rail service during the unrest and that several buses were vandalized. Rapp announced the extension of funding for Downey for the ATP program where Caltrans asked for the bridge to be repaired. She mentioned that the TAC received the same reports that were presented this evening. Vice-Chair Davila called for questions, seeing none she called for receive and file that was approved by agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

