

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Blvd.  
Paramount, California  
January 6, 2020**

**Zoom Conference**

GCCOG President Maria Davila called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Tony Lima	Artesia		X
2.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy (E)	Avalon (1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President)	X	
3.	Ali Saleh (E)	Bell (2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President)		X
4.	Raymond Dunton (E)	Bellflower	X	
5.	Alejandra Cortez	Bell Gardens		X
6.	Naresh Solanki	Cerritos	X	
7.	Oralia Rebollo (E)	Commerce	X	
8.	Emma Sharif	Compton	X	
9.	Elizabeth Alcantar	Cudahy	X	
10.	Sean Ashton (E)	Downey	X	
11.	Luis Roa	Hawaiian Gardens	X	
12.	Marilyn Sanabria (E)	Huntington Park	X	
13.	Cory Moss	Industry		X
14.	John Lewis (E)	La Mirada	X	
15.	Ariel Pe	Lakewood	X	
16.	Robert Garcia (E)	Long Beach		X
17.	Rex Richardson	Long Beach		X
18.	Marisela Santana	Lynwood	X	
19.	Heber Marquez	Maywood	X	
20.	Angie Jimenez	Montebello	X	
21.	Vilma Cuellar Stallings	Paramount	X	
23.	Raul Elias	Pico Rivera	X	
24.	Joe Angel Zamora (E)	Santa Fe Springs	X	
25.	Edward Wilson (E)	Signal Hill	X	
26.	Maria Davila (E)	South Gate (President)	X	
27.	William Davis	Vernon	X	
28.	Fernando Dutra (E)	Whittier (Immediate Past President)	X	
29.	Herlinda Chico (E)	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
30.	Kimberly Ortega	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis	X	
31.	Sup. Holly Mitchell	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell		X
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
	(E) Executive Committee	<b>Total =</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>

ALSO, PRESENT: Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager – City of Lakewood; Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit, Gilbert Saldade, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Stephanie Cadena, Melani Smith, Ivy Tsai – COG Staff; Norman Emerson, Emerson Associates; Mahogany Smith-Christopher, Erica Copeland – CivicSpark; Kristine Guerrero – Cal Cities; Hammer Sui, Tony Tavares, Gloria Roberts – Caltrans; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Guadalupe Camberos – City of Huntington Park; Luke Klipp, Tyler Bonanno-Curley – City of Long Beach; Dianne Guevara – City of South Gate; Patricia Camacho – Office of Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan; Hilary Norton – Fast Link, California Transportation Commission ; Mark Dierking, Steven Lee – Metro; Bianca Villanueva, Nina Turner – Port of Long Beach; Sarah Patterson – SCAG; Danielle Soto, Joseph Impullitti, Naveen Berry – South Coast Air Quality Management District; Andres Molina – WSP.

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Administrative Assistant Sandra Mora. There were no amendments to the agenda. There were no public comments.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer reported that in regard to the I-605 Corridor Improvement Project, staff is working with Metro and Caltrans and key affected cities to make progress on a less impactful alternative. On I-710, there will be another corridor-wide community briefing to be held later in the month, open to all community members interested in getting an update on the corridor project.

Director Pfeffer said COG staff would like to take Item V off of the Consent Calendar. This is for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on the Regional Early Action Program (REAP) funds to the COG. In working with SCAG, staff recognizes more time is needed to finalize the MOU before it is reviewed by the Board for approval. The item will be brought back to the Board.

Director Pfeffer gave a brief overview of items on the Consent Calendar, including the County's response to the COG's letter in regard to the outdoor dining ban, and a draft letter for the County to consider ways to distribute federal funding to local governments, if and when available. She summarized an item regarding the Committee on Homelessness' membership, and provided an update on the COG's partnership with the SoCal Regional Energy Network (REN), including development of a new energy working group for city staff working on energy efficiency projects.

Finally, Director Pfeffer highlighted 2 recent social media posts uploaded to the COG's accounts, one on the REN program and the other a reminder of the upcoming Housing Element deadline. Director Pfeffer also shared a list of 2020 COG accomplishments under our various program areas, which will be sent via email to all COG members and city elected officials.

President Davila asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Member Ed Wilson moved to approve and it was seconded by Member Marisela Santana. COG Counsel Ivy Tsai clarified that as staff is removing Item V from the agenda, the motion would be to approve all items except Item V. Member Sean Ashton abstained from Item B. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

President Davila moved on to Report A, Quarterly update from Caltrans District 7. Gloria Roberts, Deputy Director of District 7 introduced new District Director Tony Tavares. Tavares provided an overview of the 5 transportation priority areas for Caltrans: safety, modality, innovation, efficiency, and partnerships. Tavares said Caltrans has always been a vehicle-centric organization and is now branching out to becoming a multi-modal focused transportation agency. He noted the importance of this step as the state's population will increase by over 25% within the next 30 years, and freight will increase by at least 75%. Having 2 major ports that convey more than 40-50% of all the goods coming into the US further pushes the need to diversify freight movement.

Tavares also introduced the Caltrans Equity Statement, which was released in Dec. 2020. The statement recognizes how underserved communities of color have largely carried the burden of negative impacts associated with the transportation system. The equity statement focuses around 4 P's: people, programs & projects, partnerships, and planet. Tavares said Caltrans recognizes its leadership role and responsibility in these impacts. To this effect, Caltrans is establishing a new strategic management plan with equity goals for every branch, department and program within the organization.

Tavares reintroduced Caltrans' Ambassador Program for District 7. Caltrans Ambassadors serve as single points of contact for cities to obtain assistance and resources. Ambassadors will be meeting with staff from each city to establish a connection and seek to meet regularly. The program was first implemented in July 2020. To date, ambassadors have been able to establish working relationships with 13 of the Gateway cities.

Tavares introduced Roger Yoh, Asset Manager of Caltrans District 7, who provided an update on major highway projects in the region. Over 40 projects are currently under construction, including projects on the I-710, CA-60, I-5 and several others. As many of these projects are disruptive to traffic, Yoh said Caltrans staff is committed to working with partners to help inform communities of project updates and impacts.

Yoh also noted there are over 50 projects in the region that are in the design phase. He provided an update on projects along the 91/605 and I-105, among others. Yoh thanked Speaker Rendon and Assembly Member Garcia for their support in these projects. He provided a list of links for staying informed with Caltrans and all projects.

Director Pfeffer noted that Hilary Norton, Chairwoman of California Transportation Commission (CTC) was in attendance. Norton said she appreciated the presentation and that it has been a pleasure to work with the COG team. She reported the CTC had a productive year in 2020, helping to fund \$22 billion worth of projects. She is looking forward to having COG-member engagement in Caltrans equity groups to help inform funding for projects to help rebuild the economy post COVID-19.

Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra asked Caltrans staff to share a summary of updated budgets and timelines for projects within the region. He also asked staff to clarify when project completion occurs. Yoh responded that 100% completion means the

construction contract has been closed and the project may be open to traffic. However, landscaping contracts will generally extend past this date to ensure that plants are well established, and the area continues to look as nice as possible.

Member Herlinda Chico commended Caltrans for wanting to be more flexible and efficient, and wanting to engage in more partnerships with local cities, especially as the County and cities have been working hard to address homeless encampments. Member Chico noted that encampments on onramps/offramps are becoming especially problematic, dangerous and a health crisis. Local governments are hearing complaints from constituents on a weekly basis. Member Chico said having Caltrans as a partner has been a challenge in the past and would like to know what Caltrans plans to do in terms of addressing encampments and collaborating with jurisdictions.

Tavares said Caltrans is taking a new approach as the situation has gotten worse over the years and COVID-19 has exacerbated it even further. Caltrans wants to change from the “Caltrans shuffle” where encampments were cleared only to go back and forth from Caltrans and cities’ right-of-way. Caltrans wants to engage more effectively in partnerships with cities and counties to do cleanups, help provide services, and find solutions and implement solutions in a collaborative manner.

Member Emma Sharif summarized issues with specific encampments along the I-710 and Rosecrans, and off the CA-91. She asked for a status update for addressing these encampments and when these will be prioritized. The City of Compton has had to address these situations on their own, with several safety concerns raised by residents. Member Sharif also asked for updates on how often cleanups occur and a timeline for litter pickup.

Tavares responded that staff is planning on addressing issues along these freeways and implementation will begin in the next few weeks. He reported that Caltrans staff had to stop litter pickup from the period of March – July 2020, due to COVID-19. There is now a backlog throughout the state with staff trying to catch up. Tavares said staff will seek to have further discussion with the City of Compton and other COG Board members.

Member Rios thanked the COG for providing a forum to express concerns and share comments with Caltrans. She commented that in Norwalk, as a result of the I-5 widening project, there continues to be issues with Caltrans property. Norwalk staff met with Caltrans last year in regard to these issues, yet challenges continue with Caltrans property upkeep and maintenance. The City has not seen improvement and residents have expectations for cleanliness and safety that have not been met. Member Rios also summarized an issue with a chain-link fence and an encampment along the highway. She asked if more durable materials or installation can be used for fencing, as there comes a point when cost to continuously repair the chain link fence exceeds the cost of a more durable solution. Tavares responded that staff will provide an update on projects within the City and will seek to partner to come up with solutions for the fence and cleanup.

Hammer Sui, Caltrans staff, added that Caltrans has contracted with the California Conservation Corps for additional maintenance and cleanup. Caltrans staff will work with the Conservation Corps on addressing cleanup and other concerns in the region.

Member Wilson said the ambassador program will be the key to communicating with Caltrans and working on solutions with cities. Member Wilson also invited Caltrans staff to give this presentation to the City of Signal Hill Council.

Member Santana noted issues with encampments in the City of Lynwood along the I-105. There is also a linear park that runs along the freeway with a chain-link fence separating the park from freeway property. Member Santana said she looks forward to creating a partnership with Caltrans to keep the offramps clean and safe. She also invited Caltrans staff to present to the Lynwood City Council.

Tavares said he envisions the Ambassador program to be the one-stop shop for cities, with dedicated Caltrans staff accountable to help cities find solutions.

Member John Lewis asked for clarification on the timeline for the highway project in Santa Fe Springs and La Mirada. Yoh said he will follow up via email. Member Lewis asked about eminent domain properties taken and about the procedure for cities making a claim for those properties or having opportunity for local control. Tavares responded that it is preferred to arrange for cities to have a claim or local control. However, if the property is purchased using federal funds, then the process is different, and goes to public auction.

Member Lewis asked for a report for parcels available in La Mirada, and for procedures that need to be followed. He also commented that La Mirada has paid for a lot of clean ups for encampments on Caltrans property and asked if the City can credit the cost to Caltrans or if those costs would have to be absorbed. Tavares said staff works with cities to do cleanups and uses their own contractor, and would follow up with City staff offline.

Member Vilma Cuellar Stallings also invited Tavares to provide a presentation for Paramount City Council and community.

President Davila asked for motion to receive and file. Member Santana moved and Member Vilma Cuellar Stallings seconded. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

President Davila moved on to Item B. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Zero Emission (ZE) Truck Fleet Demonstration Proposal. Joseph Impullitti, with the Technology Advancement Office at AQMD, presented on the ZE Truck Fleet Demonstration Proposal. The AQMD is preparing an application for a statewide grant opportunity to deploy 100 commercial battery electric trucks and infrastructure. There will be 2 fleets with 50 ZE trucks each. One fleet will be stationed in Ontario and the second stationed in El Monte. The fleets will heavily utilize the I-710 corridor to operate and move containers to and from the ports. The proposed project will include a workforce plan and training courses, community outreach, and data collection and analysis.

Impullitti presented the project goals and benefits, noting the anticipated reductions in nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and carbon dioxide. The estimated total project cost is approximately \$80 million. This covers the cost of the trucks, infrastructure to charge the trucks, data collection, community outreach and workforce training. Impullitti noted the project partners that are contributing to the proposal and project costs.

Member Sharon Weissman commented that the Port of Long Beach is very excited for this project and the opportunity it brings to move the timeline forward for reaching goals towards cleaner air and ZE fleets. The Port would appreciate the COG's support.

Member Wilson commented he is finishing up his urban planning Master's program at USC, and his group recently did a presentation on the Gateway Cities Green Corridor Initiative. The concept is aligned with AQMD's proposed goals as it envisions the Gateway Cities Corridor serving as a pilot program for zero and near ZE vehicles at all levels. The I-710 could be the main corridor to help drive industry towards zero and near ZE vehicles. Wilson expressed support and excitement for the program moving forward.

President Davila asked for a motion to receive and file the presentation and approve submitting a letter of support for AQMD's proposal. Member Sharif moved and Member Sanabria seconded. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

President Davila turned to Item C, report from Transportation Committee (TC). Director Pfeffer summarized the two items being recommended for the Board's approval from the Transportation Committee. Metro staff presented at the TC on the final draft recommendations for the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force. The group discussed the recommendations and approved a staff comment letter to submit to Metro. The second item is the Metro Subregional Equity Program. These are funds that are allocated to each of the subregions upon adoption of Measure M. The amount for the Gateway Cities totals \$244 million. Metro staff has shared a white paper describing the proposed procedure for how subregions can access this funding over time. COG staff provided a draft comment letter that was approved at the TC. Staff recommends for the COG Board to approve submitting both letters to Metro.

First Vice President Cinde Cassidy moved to approve staff's recommendation. Immediate Past President Dutra seconded. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

Under Matters from the Board of Directors, Member Wilson commented that he has been reelected to City Council for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive time and was voted in as Mayor. He highlighted the oath elected officials take to safeguard and defend the constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. He shared that what the country witnessed today in Washington D.C. came from, unfortunately, the presidency instigating action against the government. He noted that if it was a foreign country, we would be up in arms, and we should be equally up in arms that it happened from one of our elected officials. He said if we don't speak out, then we give the people the belief that these actions are okay. Member Wilson suggested for other Members to comment if they get an opportunity, as

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he believes it is the duty of elected officials to speak out regardless of political party. Member Wilson said the individual that holds the highest office in the land is instigating an insurrection to those that we have voted to represent us. He expressed feeling heartbroken, and said we need to find our way as a group, community, and country.

Under Matters from the President, Davila made 3 appointments to the COG's Homelessness Committee. Member Oralia Rebollo was appointed to LCA 1; Member Joe Angel Zamora was appointed for LCA 2; and Member Luis Roa was appointed for LCA 4.

Adjournment: President Davila adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director