

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
4:30 P.M. Meeting**

Gateway Cities Council of Governments
MEETING REMOTE LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Chair - MTA Director, Long Beach Mayor - Robert Garcia

Meeting called to order at 4:34 by Mayor Maria Davila, City of South Gate, President, Gateway Cities Council of Governments. Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Maria Davila	COG Board President	X	
2.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy	COG 1 st Vice President	X	
3.	Ali Saleh	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President		X
4.	Fernando Dutra	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
5.	Emma Sharif	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President		X
6.	Robert Garcia, Chair	MTA Board of Directors Rep.		X
7.	Luke Klipp	Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
8.	Martin Reyes	Office of Sup. Solis	X	
9.	Sarah Bauman/Tracy Beidleman	Long Beach Transit	X	
10.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
11.	Thaddeus McCormack	CM Steering Committee, Chair	X	
12.	Bill Rawlings	City Manager, City of Artesia	X	
13.	Kevin Jackson	City of Long Beach		X
14.	Bill Pagett	Public Works Officer	X	
15.	Ed Norris	Public Works Officer		X
Total =			10	5

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Stephanie Cadena – GCCOG Staff, Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates, Justin Ramirez – Metro Transportation Deputy to Mayor Garcia, Lorry Hempe – City of Lynwood, Shannon Delong – City of Whittier, Jamie Hwang - Supervisor Hahn’s Office, Monica Waggoner, Mark Dierking, Steven Lee – Metro, Nina Turner – Port of Long Beach, Karen Lee. City of Artesia, Veronica Gunn, Al Cromer.

There were no general public comments or matters from staff. There were no amendments to the agenda. A Motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar. Corrections were suggested to the February minutes and those minutes will be approved next month.

Justin Ramirez, Transportation Deputy for Mayor Garcia, gave the Metro Board Meeting recap report beginning with a description of the Sepulveda Pass Project Development Agreement (PDA) process that will be considered for approval next month. He briefly described the two project proposals that will be funded and considered. Mr. Ramirez also announced that Metro CEO, Phil Washington, would not be seeking to renew his employment contract and that a nationwide search was anticipated. The report was received and filed.

Mayor Davila introduced Monica Waggoner, Project Manager for the Metro Micro project. Ms. Waggoner described the demonstration areas including one that provided some service in the Gateway Cities Area, in the City of Compton. She announced that the Metro Micro roll-out will be integrated with the bus service changes to assist people in their mobility options. The program is not just about mobility and ridership options but also about mobility and the mobility experience to people who have not traditionally considered transit as an option. Ms. Waggoner indicated areas that soon would have service. Mayor Davila asked about why Gateway Cities did not have many demonstrations. Ms. Waggoner stated that having rail stations was key to choosing service demonstration areas. Mayor Davila stated that there are equity issues in Southeast cities and there was not a visible project presence in the Gateway Cities.

Fernando Dutra asked about Metro Micro possibilities at the end of the Green Line and the end of the Blue Line, why there are no connections and parking spills over into the communities. He asked about potential applicability for special events such as the Long Beach Grand Prix and other venues. He asked about the process for spreading service. Waggoner requested clarification; was this a request for a special market service and Mr. Dutra indicated that there was a potential nexus or catalyst for service.

Luke Klipp, Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Hahn, requested a Metro Micro Map be placed on screen. Ms. Waggoner placed a map in the chat and on screen and gave the metro.net web link. She described the difference between Metro Micro and the Mobility on Demand Program, which will be taken over by Metro Micro service. The Compton Zone and the Watts/Willowbrook Zone overlap. Mr. Klipp compared the GCCOG number of zones to other non-Los Angeles subregions. Mr. Klipp discussed the paucity of service resources in southeast LA County. Mr. Klipp referenced the subsidy per rider that is going towards riders in wealthier areas. Ms. Waggoner indicated that she has been talking to the City of Artesia about them trying to start up a service. Ms. Pfeffer asked questions about performance metrics, what factors are considered when creating zones.

Justin Ramirez gave an overview of the Fareless System Initiative (FSI), stating that MTA is considering FSI as many riders have incomes of less than \$35,000, and this would be an incentive to get riders to return to using the transit service. It supports GHG reduction and addresses equity considerations. Beginning in August of next year, and contingent upon vaccination progress, it would become a fareless system for K-12 students. TAP cards will carry the fareless options as well as a cell phone app. Mr. Ramirez reviewed the potential \$300 million plus cost for providing the service. He described the Freedom to Move potential federal legislation that may help backfill fare revenue. He reviewed the Board dates for the adoption of the program and reviewed the GCCOG Service Council date of March 11. Sharon Weissman, Port of Long Beach, talked about the fact that in Gateway Cities, the majority of bus service is provided by municipal operators and there would be little or no benefit for Gateway Cities residents from FSI. Weissman suggested pursuing reduced fares instead of free fares to provide more benefit. Mr. Ramirez said Phil Washington, Metro CEO did talk to all the Municipal Operators. Tracy Beidleman, Long Beach Transit, said there have been some conversations on the topic. She said some operators cannot consider free fares. Mr. Klipp indicated that source of some of the money was the unexpended Call for Projects capital money that used to fund projects within the subregions. Councilman Dutra asked about the security increase in funding.

The next report was from Lisa Rapp who submitted a written report that was read by Nancy Pfeffer for the MTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC had a presentation of the Rail to River (R2R) project. She discussed the project's connectivity and the mobility goals. She reviewed the participating communities, Los Angeles, Inglewood, Huntington Park, and Maywood. The project had right-of-way conflicts with the WSAB alignment and other streets are under consideration. Ms. Rapp wrote that there was concern about gentrification issues. She mentioned that the TAC had a presentation on the Los Angeles Union Station to Dodgers Stadium private connector.

SCAG is making a decision that will impact the allocation of COVID relief funds for transit operations. Other Counties have asked that SCAG reduce \$126 million generated by the County of Los Angeles MTA and municipal operators and give it to other counties. A communication went out to SCAG reps to vote to keep Los Angeles County generated funding intact. The SCAG administrative committee tabled the issue – may or may not get voted on tomorrow. Tracy Beidleman stated that LACMOA made contact with Rex Richardson in support of the SCAG Staff decision.

Mayor Davila asked for a Motion to receive and file, a roll call vote was taken. Motion to receive and file all reports passed. Mayor Davila requested Committee comments. Member Cassidy asked for the membership of the Transportation Committee and if there will be any open spots. Mr. Klipp reminded people to vote for the City Selection Committee and ratify the election of Fernando Dutra as the new Gateway Cities Metro Board Representative. Ms. Pfeffer reminded people the chat rooms will be available after the GCCOG Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.