

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
April 3, 2019**

President Fernando Dutra called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

PRESENT: President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Immediate Past President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada
1st Vice President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Roberto U, City of Long Beach
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Ricardo Lara, City of Maywood
Member Jennifer Perez, City of Norwalk
Member Diane J. Martinez, City of Paramount
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
2nd Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT:

Member Lisseth Flores, City of Bell Gardens
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach
Member Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier; Sharon Weissman, Board Deputy, Office of Mayor Robert Garcia; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Diana Tang, Manager of Government Affairs, Long Beach; Vaniah De Rojas, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Downey; Danielle Soto, Senior Public Affairs Manager, SCAQMD; Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities; Jeanette Christian, Field Representative, Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein; Nina Turner, Government Relations, Port of Long Beach; Jeff Fromhertz, Sr. Project Manager, WSP, USA; Rosanna Garcia, Executive Account Manager, Lee Andrews Group; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Analyst Karen Heit; GCCOG Consultant Norm Emerson; GCCOG Sandra Mora; GCCOG Stephanie Cadena; GCCOG Joel Arevalos, and Kekoa Anderson, COG Consulting Engineer.

President Fernando Dutra called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Herlinda Chico, representing Supervisor Janice Hahn.

President Dutra removed the Closed Session item from the Agenda, rescheduling it to next month. There were no other amendments or changes to the agenda.

There were no public comments

Under Matters from Staff GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer reported that the GCCOG Board of Directors retreat scheduled for June 20 – 22, 2019 and that the Save-the-Date notices would be going out shortly. There have been many suggested topics from the planning committee and housing issues are rising to the top. She called attention to a new population chart that shows population densities within the COG area. Lastly, she announced an upcoming Affordable Housing/Sustainable Communities workshop that is being offered to COG cities. She remarked that Gateway Cities has not been terribly successful in receiving Cap & Trade funds and that this workshop should assist cities that want to obtain funds to build Affordable Housing.

Executive Director Pfeffer talked about the American Planning Association (APA) awards season and that the GCCOG has self-nominated for two awards; the Gateway Cities CAP Framework and the I-710 Livability Initiative. Other entities have nominated the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit Oriented Communities work and the GCCOG itself for community planning efforts.

President Dutra discussed the Affordable Housing workshop and the importance of city staff as well as elected officials attending. He suggested that elected officials also attend the workshop to ensure success with their staff. A question was asked about having the workshops in the evening to accommodate the attendance of elected officials. President Dutra stated that this would require having staff work overtime at some expense. Herlinda

Chico suggested that the sessions be videotaped, which is not currently possible in the meeting room. Nancy Pfeffer stated that the upcoming workshop is oriented towards staff but that staff would explore using technology to make workshops available in the future. Ed Wilson, City of Signal Hill, suggested the use of recording or streaming technology during the retreat. Jennifer Perez, City of Norwalk, suggested real-time conference sharing using technology.

President Dutra recommended postponing recognition for former Signal Hill Councilmember Larry Forrester until he shows up at this meeting or until the next GCCOG Board meeting.

The Consent Calendar was approved with an amendment to the minutes.

President Dutra introduced MTA Project Manager Philbert Wong who gave a presentation on the I-105 Express Lanes Project. Wong started off with discussing the affected communities and the degraded traffic periods in the existing HOV Lane, speeds average as low as 25 mph during the peak periods. He went on to describe the Express Lanes Project proposed alternatives:

- Alternative I - No build,
- Alternative II - Restripe existing freeway lanes
- Alternative III- Reduce lane size and utilize the shoulder.

He went on to explain that there was an Alternative IV but it required ROW expansion and therefore has been eliminated from further study. Wong talked about the coordination with the WSAB/Eco-Rapid team concerning the location of the new Metro Green Line station that would interface with the street level WSAB station.

Wong talked about the operational characteristics that would be similar to the I-10 and I-110 Express Lanes. The I-105 lanes would have the same operational benefits and characteristics as well as California Highway Patrol and Freeway Service Patrol support. He talked about the physical constraints and the need for Express Lane enforcement areas and ingress/egress equipment.

Wong reviewed upcoming public meetings and gave the schedule for the environmental document release. He went over the stakeholder roundtables and the use of pop-up booths and other outreach efforts along the alignment in Gateway Cities and in the South Bay.

Lastly, he went over the project schedule and the release of the traffic analysis in the fall along with project cost. Jennifer Perez asked about the terminus and how the lanes would function at the end of the Green Line as well as the safety issues associated with the high violation rate on the current HOV lane onramp which experiences illegal pedestrian usage. The high illegal pedestrian activity is linked to the MTA charging for parking at the Metro Green Lot and transit users parking in the neighborhoods to avoid parking fees.

Ed Wilson questioned the charging of alternative fueled vehicles and the removal of the free ride on Express Lanes for alt. fuel vehicles. Wilson asked how FastTrack-equipped vehicles merge from Express Lanes to single occupancy lanes. Director Wilson also wanted to know how non-standard lanes work. Wong explained the merge from Express Lanes to regular freeway lane and the signage and other markings. Alt. fuel vehicles on the I-105 may be as high as 10% of the total which would degrade the lanes if the clean vehicles are allowed to run for free. The proposed toll discount would help manage the Express Lanes. Encouraging the use of alt. fuel vehicles is not the prime directive for Express Lanes; congestion relief is the main goal. Nancy Pfeffer asked when the lanes could be constructed - if all goes well, the lanes could open as early as 2025, the construction dates range from 2025 to 2029. The funding plan includes Measure M, as well as potential for bonding off of toll revenue and Infra grant. A Motion was made to receive and file this item.

President Dutra introduced GCCOG Engineer Kekoa Anderson, who presented the I-710 Livability Plan. Anderson started by discussing the various Gateway Cities plans that went into the plan as foundational data. He talked about the genesis for the Livability Plan and the need to consider elements that are not part of the actual freeway project. He reviewed the project area and how it differs from the I-710 Freeway Corridor. The Livability Plan examined twenty-seven impacted streets and addressed specific community concerns. Anderson reviewed the toolbox and aesthetic and safety elements. He went on to focus on Imperial Hwy as an example of intersection treatments and how the Livability Plan works with the I-710 Corridor Plan. He explained the division of responsibility between the Caltrans project and the Livability Plan. He discussed the next elements to be covered, including, river and recreation uses that should be considered in the future. He talked about how the additional elements culminate in a complete streets package that can be planned for and built when funding becomes available.

Anderson continued by going over some of the new non-transportation funding elements that could be added to the project through a number of programs. He described the Livability Plan as a living document that has an independent life beyond the I-710 project. Nancy Pfeffer added that Congress is moving towards a new infrastructure bill along with a transportation bill. She indicated that she requested MTA to put the Livability Plan into the new infrastructure bill. A Motion was made to receive and file this report.

The next item was a GCCOG letter requesting the MTA Board of Directors focus on the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase II (MGLEEII) Washington Blvd Alignment. Herlinda Chico expressed the support of Supervisor Hahn and that Supervisor Hahn is going to work with Supvr. Solis and Mayor Garcia to achieve the selection of this alternative.

Executive Director Pfeffer introduced the idea of a planning director assessment to provide funding for GCCOG housing staff. She brought out the need for funding for the housing/homelessness function. She asked that the cities contribute one percent of their SB 2 maximum funding to the COG to support this position. Jhonny Pineda, City of

Huntington Park, indicated that he would have to discuss the matter with the Huntington Park City Council and that other cities may need to do the same, therefore he requested that no action be taken at this meeting. Director Perez asked if the city managers had been approached and what they thought, Pfeffer deferred to Jeff Collier as to how the city managers responded. Collier supported having resources at the COG, he talked about how the reaction to some of the housing bills would be received publicly and the difficulty of addressing the issue. Cindy Cassidy, City of Avalon, suggested redrafting the letter into a staff report that could be used by the city managers for GCCOG city councils. Director Pineda asked how many city managers attend these meetings and that some cities don't know about them. All GCCOG city managers are invited to attend these meetings. The letter will be converted for use by cities as requested.

Sharon Weissman, Transportation Deputy for MTA Director - Mayor Robert Garcia of Long Beach, reported on the MTA Board meeting including free transit service on Earth Day. She went on to report on the Metro Blue Line rehab. bus bypass service. This rehab project is still on track. The completed southern portion of the Blue Line will return to service the first week in June as scheduled. She went on to discuss the Next-Gen meeting the outreach, and the common themes, safety, on-time service, cleanliness, convenience. Goals are to invest in service for those who need it, make it safe clean, faster. She went over the needs and desires for Gateway Service and riders.

Weissman announced the Metro Gold and Expo light rail tours that the MTA is scheduling for the month of April and how people can participate. This report was received and filed. The written reports from the other committee and outside agencies committees were received and filed.

President Dutra thanked the City of Bell for the tour of supportive housing and the Bell shelter. He also thanked the City of Long Beach for the tour of their supportive housing project.

President Dutra called on Kristine Guerrero, Legislative Director – League of California Cities, to address the League's vacancy for an LA County representative to replace Larry Forester. She outlined the duties and responsibilities including a monthly phone call and possible five meetings per year. President Dutra asked for names to be submitted. A request was made for a report on the I-710 Corridor Project.

There were no matters from the Board.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director