

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
August 7, 2019**

GCCOG President Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

PRESENT: President Diane DuBois, Lakewood
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
2nd Vice President Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Lisseth Flores, City of Bell Gardens
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Sean Ashton, City of Downey
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Ricardo Lara, City of Maywood
Member Brenda Olmos, City of Paramount
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
1st Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT:

Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach
Member Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Lakewood City Manager Thaddeus McCormack; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Sharon Weissman, Metro Board Deputy to Director Robert Garcia; Joe Perri, Director, Private Company; Jonathan Sobrano, Long Beach Staff; John Moreno, City Manager, City of Paramount; Sarah Patterson, Regional Affairs Officer, SCAG; Andres Molina, Deputy Manager Government Affairs, WSP; Vaniah De Rojas, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Downey; Steve Forster, Sr. Vice President, Infrastructure Engineers; Run Chen, Director of Public Affairs, City of Lynwood; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Analyst Karen Heit; GCCOG Chair of Economic Working Group, Jerry Caton; GCCOG Consultant Norm Emerson; GCCOG Staff Sandra Mora; GCCOG Staff Stephanie Cadena; GCCOG Staff Joel Arevalos, and GCCOG Staff Genny Cisneros.

President DuBois deviated from the agenda to present an award to Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra. Other COG Members also gave remarks in recognition of President Dutra's service.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cinde Cassidy – City of Avalon.

There were amendments to the agenda, items 1-3 under Transportation Committee have been postponed to September. A Motion was made by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Pineda. The item was approved unanimously to postpone 1-3 to September.

There were no public comments.

Under items from staff, there was a discussion of moving the January – 2020 meeting scheduled for January 1st to another date. Dates offered were Monday 12/30, Thursday 1/2, Monday 1/6, Wednesday 1/8. A poll was taken and it was determined that the issue will be resolved by Doodle poll. Executive Director Pfeffer told the Board that she has activated the Line of Credit per Board policy. She then went on to discuss changes in the Climate Action Tracking Tool and the addition of the City of Maywood to the Beacon Program. The cities of Artesia, Avalon, Bell Gardens, Norwalk, and Santa Fe Springs, as well as the County of Los Angeles and the Eco-Rapid JPA, all received Caltrans Transportation Planning grants. She then went on to explain the flyers at each place; the notice of a public hearing for the SCAG Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit update which was inadvertently left out of the packet, and a new version of the GCCOG/Eco-Rapid JPA/City of Artesia three-party agreement with changes highlighted by staff. She also pointed out the current SCAG demographic profiles printed out for each city. Lastly, Executive Director Pfeffer introduced Gilbert Saldate, the new COG homelessness coordinator, and briefly outlined his responsibilities. She related that Saldate had hit the ground running and had already met with many of the cities on homelessness issues. Saldate spoke briefly about his

experience and the pleasure he takes in serving the cities individually and that he will be meeting with each city. This concluded items from staff.

Consent Calendar - It was moved by Member Solanki and seconded by Member Davila to approve the Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar was approved as amended with one abstention on item A from the City of Bell.

President DuBois called on Lakewood City Manager Thaddeus McCormack to report on a meeting and COG tour with State Senator Scott Weiner, the author of SB-50. SB-50 is focused in removing barriers from the construction of affordable housing. The Bill, if passed in its current form will allow for the redevelopment of single-family neighborhoods into by-right higher density housing providing they are within specific distances from high quality bus or rail lines. McCormack reported that the COG team goal was to show the Senator typical Gateway cities densities and how the tenets of SB-50 do not necessarily fit the Gateway Cities. The Senator was driven through Lakewood, Bellflower, Paramount and South Gate. He was driven through mostly fully built out neighborhoods with residential densities that rival New York City. The Senator asked a lot of questions and was very familiar with the briefing materials that had been sent to him.

McCormack stressed to Wiener that there is not a lot of rail service or major job centers in the Gateway Cities subregion that would support his paradigm of housing development. Wiener asked for assistance in trying to cope with a solution that would resolve housing needs for the state. Wiener did not, as yet, have a good definition for “jobs rich” areas. He also admitted that there is a struggle with infrastructure demands associated with increased housing density. Karen Heit added that Wiener had his eyes opened with COG areas where there is overcrowded single family housing due to multi-generational households and multi-family occupation of single-family housing. Past-President Dutra asked if Wiener made suggestions about what he would like to see.

It was moved by Member Davila and seconded by Member Ashton to receive and file the item. The item was approved unanimously.

Sharon Weissman, Metro Director Robert Garcia’s Transportation Deputy, gave a report on the Gateway Cities transit summit and the focus on the Next Gen study, the Long Beach Transit Star program and the Norwalk Transit improvement. There were attendees from all of the bus service providers and many elected offices. The next summit will focus on micro transit and e-scooters, a hot topic for all of the cities. She then went on to explain the Measure M Subregional Equity Fund (SEF). She gave a brief background on the genesis of the SEF and how it wasn’t originally part of Measure M. She stated that any funds allocated would not necessarily be Measure M funds. The San Gabriel Valley received a portion of their SEF for the Foothill LRT project.

COG Economic Development consultant Jerry Caton, took the podium and gave a report on economic development at the subregional level. Caton discussed that the biggest part

of economic development was the provision of jobs. He then went on to say that in our subregion, we need jobs that do not require a college education.

Caton explained that the MTA is looking for a site to assemble rail cars and electric buses and that this is an opportunity for the COG to perhaps compete for a bus or rail car manufacturer or assembly. He would like to be able to send out a COG-based letter that there are opportunities to host an electric vehicles assembly or the rail cars. There was a call for questions, seeing none a Motion was passed to receive and file the report.

President DuBois acknowledged the written reports.

Reports IX A-H - It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Pineda to receive and file reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports X A-H - It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Dutra to receive and file reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Under matters from the Board, Cinde Cassidy thanked the Board for her appointment to COG Board leadership and thanked the Board for holding the COG retreat in Avalon. Ed Wilson – City of Signal Hill, invited people to attend the grand opening of the new Signal Hill library this Saturday at 11:00 am.

President DuBois welcomed a new Council Member from the City of Paramount, Brenda Olmos. Member Chapa asked for remembrance of Purple Heart day and those who earned those awards.

President DuBois adjourned the meeting in memory of those killed in the senseless violence that plagued our country this week

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director