

**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
March 6, 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 Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Lisseth Flores, City of Bell Gardens
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
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 Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Ricardo Lara, City of Maywood
Member Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello
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
2nd Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT:

Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
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; Paul Backstrom, LA Metro; Mark Yamarone, LA Metro; Michael Cano, LA Metro; Vaniah De Rojas, City of Downey; Bill Stracker, City of Lynwood; Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities; Chau Vu, City of Bell Gardens; 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; GCCOG Genny Cisneros.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tony Lima, City of Artesia.

President Dutra introduced the six new Board members and welcomed them to the COG Board.

There were no amendments or changes to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

Matters from staff: GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer reported on the SCAG delegation Sacramento trip that was sponsored by the League of California Cities. She was able to meet with Senators Wiener, Beall, Leyva and Assembly Members Garcia and O'Donnell. Her message was the Gateway Cities interest in resolving issues of equity for disadvantaged communities. She invited Senator Wiener to visit Gateway Cities to review the housing situation in Gateway Cities.

Consent Calendar - It was moved by Member Lima and seconded by Member Tercero to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

GCCOG President Fernando Dutra introduced Michael Cano, MTA Goods Movement Project Manager, who gave a presentation on the MTA's Los Angeles County Goods Movement Strategic Plan. He discussed the kick-off activities and the initial effort to define goods movement in Los Angeles County. He discussed the different definitions of goods movement as defined by different stakeholders in different areas. Goods movement issues include lack of curbside parking for postal, Fed-Ex and Amazon deliveries to issues associated with port traffic and major warehousing as experienced by southeast cities and the San Gabriel Valley. He emphasized the role the COG will play in the development of this plan.

Cano talked about the recent consolidation of goods movement planning at MTA and how this will help focus the needs and goals. He reviewed the status of state funding for goods movement under SB-1 and other state sources. He discussed MTA's 2019 request for INFRA funding for Los Angeles County including projects such as the I-105 Express Lane in Gateway Cities/South Bay. He reviewed how various agencies react to their divergent responsibilities for freight and how the MTA is building partnerships with these agencies to build an LA County plan. The MTA is trying to put together a systematic approach to

explore the key challenges facing LA County. Items of concern are the impact of the economy and economic sustainability, accommodation of demand, response to equity considerations and financing new infrastructure and technology improvements that look towards the future and the needs of goods movement and supply chain.

He went on to discuss the strategy for the development of the plan and the steps involved; the current phase focusing on determining goals and gathering stakeholders input. He talked about the open-ended nature of the process and the eventuality of a plan to be presented to the MTA Board within the next 12 months. President Dutra asked about the plan budget; Cano replied that there is a consultant budget and that a project budget would be part of the plan.

It was moved by Member Saab and seconded by Member Tercero to receive and file report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Genny Cisneros introduced Joel Arevalos as the newest GCCOG employee assisting with the administrative functions.

President Dutra introduced Paul Backstrom, MTA Project Manager who gave a presentation on the Congestion Management Program (CMP) Opt-out. Backstrom indicated that he had met with both the Gateway Cities Public Works Directors and the Planners on the Opt-out topic. He gave a brief background on the CMP and how it came into being as a congestion management tool. The CMP was one of the earliest programs that linked transportation to land use decisions in order to mitigate congestion. The CMP was intended to define transportation deficiencies using Level of Service (LOS). The question before the MTA is whether the current CMP is worth the output of scarce public transportation dollars and city resources. Opting out relieves cities of the mandate to use LOS to determine roadway deficiencies. Cities would no longer be responsible for maintaining paper work on debits and credits and relieves the element of fear over losing gas tax money.

Staff recommended to the MTA Board to get the cities to opt-out. In order to opt-out the majority of the cities with the majority of the population must opt-out. MTA held a workshop for opting out in September. Current actions include visiting cities and COGs to initiate opt-out resolutions.

MTA spoke to various state agencies about the opt-out and whether it was okay. The City of LA is moving to opt-out as well as the County of LA. The City of Long Beach is opting out in April. Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood, asked which funds were attached to the CMP, the answer is if the majority of the 2105 gas tax funds. She asked about the flow of funding and whether the 2105 funds would continue without the CMP. Backstrom affirmed that the funds would continue to flow. Ed Wilson from Signal Hill asked about perspective of leaving things as they are, the answer is the CMP formula no longer makes any sense given today's transportation plans that are built on different assumptions. The plan itself is faulty but the notion of regional planning is still very valid.

It was moved by Member Saleh and seconded by Member Pineda to receive and file report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jeff Collier, City Manager, City of Whittier, gave a presentation on HR-530 that regulates small cell tower sites. The cellular communications industry has sponsored legislation that severely limits a city's ability to site cell towers. The new regulations will help repeal HR-530 which restores some of the city's ability to regulate towers. There is a draft letter for COG Board approval.

It was moved by Member Saab and seconded by Member Pineda to support HR-530 and approve letter to legislative representatives. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item is the appointment of the next Rivers/Mountains Conservancy COG representatives. Ed Wilson indicated that Assembly Speaker Rendon wants to select from a list of names. The list now includes included Ed Wilson, Signal Hill, Ali Saleh, City of Bell and Lisseth Flores, Bell Gardens.

It was moved by Member Saab and seconded by Member Davila to forward the list to the Speaker Rendon. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item is to appoint an elected member of the Gateway Cities Service Council.

It was moved by Member Saleh and seconded by Member Saab to appoint Member Maria Davila to the Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item was to establish a line of credit for the COG to address cash flow issues. Executive Director Pfeffer explained that COG has cash flow issues towards the end of the year. Last year the COG used \$90,000 and paid it off within 3 months with about \$2990 in interest. Ray Dunton – City of Bellflower requested that the COG try and build up a reserve to avoid using the line of credit.

It was moved by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Lima to approve establishing a line of credit with Pacific Premier Bank for Calendar Year 2019. The motion was approved unanimously.

MTA Transportation Deputy for Metro Board Member Robert Garcia, Sharon Weissman, gave a report on the February MTA Board meeting and the work being done on the Blue Line rehabilitation which has shut down half of the line. She also indicated that MTA is going to maintain the free transit on Election Day next year to encourage voting. She went on to say that as part of the Reimagining Los Angeles County, the Board approved a congestion pricing demonstration study.

She outlined the feasibility of congestion pricing and the various methodologies as well as looking at how different cities around the world are using this method. She also discussed taxing TNCs that (Lyft and Uber) profit from using the public roadways, contribute to congestion and pay nothing. The idea of implementing congestion pricing and taxing TNCs will require legislation. She indicated that these strategies are being decoupled from the 28x28 initiative.

Weissman went on to discuss the four “pillar” projects that are a priority for implementation. She talked about local return not being eligible or considered for pillar funding. Multi-year Subregional Program (MSP) and other subregional funding might be considered to be loaned to advance certain projects – with subregional approval. Brent Tercero –Pico Rivera asked a question about the priorities for the pillar projects – two of the four projects are located within Gateway Cities. The prioritization has not yet occurred. Tercero talked about the Sepulveda Tunnel project receiving top priority. Weissman indicated that West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit project could be funded by a Public/Private/Partnership (3P) if it isn’t accelerated through the “Pillars.” She went on to talk about what would happen if Metro Green Line Eastern Extension Phase II (MGLEEII) project implementation is slowed to finance the Sepulveda Tunnel project. There was discussion about the funding MGLEEII and the project alternative that occurs past the 2040 deadline for the non-selected corridor. Weissman indicated that heavy lobbying will be necessary for the MTA Board to select the Washington Blvd. alignment. President Dutra discussed that Washington alignment coalition has already started to lobby for this Alignment. He mentioned the cost of the EIR/EIS and the amount of time it is taking.

Diane DuBois asked about contacting the MTA Board representatives and making sure that they know what the COG wants for 28x28. She mentioned that we should be politicking now as the 28x28 expenditures are considered.

It was moved by Member Tercero and seconded by Member Davila to receive and file reports A-H. The motion was approved unanimously

President Dutra also called for a motion to receive and file reports A-H under reports from Committees/Agencies. It was moved by Member Saab and seconded by Member Pineda to receive and file reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Under Matters from the President, President Dutra mentioned two SCAG vacancies. He appointed Maria Bernal, City of South Gate to the SCAG CEHD Committee and Ray Hamada, City of Bellflower to the SCAG Transportation Committee.

Lastly, Maria Davila from South Gate was congratulated on becoming a grandmother.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director