

**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 Boulevard
Paramount, California
March 7, 2018**

President Pineda called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
First Vice President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Second Vice President Leonard Shryock, City of Norwalk
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello
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
Member Maria Davila, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Michael Ervin, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
Member Joseph Martinez, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT: Immediate Past President Al Austin, City of Long Beach
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 Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Joaquin Lanuza, City of Maywood
Member Diane J. Martinez, City of Paramount
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Downey Director of Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; Vernon Director of Public Works Daniel Wall; Lance Grindle, Principal Engineer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Port of Long Beach Regional Government Relations Manager Nina Turner; Ana Perez, District Director, Office of Senator Ricardo Lara; Yahaira Ortiz, District Representative, Office of Senator Ricardo Lara; Greg Farr, Region Chief, Caltrans; Luke H. Klipp, Metro Board Deputy, Office of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia; Manjeet Ranu, Senior Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metro; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Ayda Safaei, Grace Kast, Executive Officer, Gateway Water Management Authority; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco Rapid Transit; Danielle Soto, Senior Public Information Specialist, South Coast AQMD; Irene Lopez-Muro, Senior Project Coordinator, Long Beach Conservation Corps; Barbara Levine, Senior District Manager, LAEDC; Samuel Marquez, Program Manager, Propel L.A., LAEDC; Meredith Berkson, Regional Director, PATH; Steve Forster, Senior Vice President, Infrastructure Engineers; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; Kekoa Anderson, GCCOG Consultant Engineer; Karen Heit, GCCOG Transportation Analyst.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by First Vice President Dutra.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Ayda Safaei, Community Relations Manager, Metro, addressed the Board regarding the I-105 Express Lane project. She said Metro is initiating the environmental study and the 40-day scoping period began today. She referred the Board to three public meetings scheduled during this period.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Dutra, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Barbara Levine, Senior District Manager, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, gave a report updating the Board on LAEDC's recent activities. She said LAEDC's regional managers are now organized by supervisorial district and she represents the 4th district. She said she was thrilled that Los Angeles is one of twenty finalists to be the location of Amazon's second headquarters. She reported that over 223,000 jobs had been saved over the twenty-year period of the LAEDC Business Retention Program. She said the region has gained jobs since the 2007 recession, but they are not at the same wage rates as the jobs that were lost.

Ms. Levine introduced Samuel Marquez, who is the Program Manager for Propel L.A. Mr. Marquez reported that Propel L.A. is the name given to the implementation effort for LAEDC's countywide economic development plan. He referred the Board to the 2016-2020 Los Angeles County Strategic Plan for Economic Development and the Propel L.A. 2017 Annual Report.

Manjeet Ranu, Senior Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metro, gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided a status report on the Eco Rapid Transit project. He said the recent MTA Board action was to authorize the expansion of the options for the northern alignment study. He reviewed the early project development process and said the project goals include mobility improvements, support of local and regional land use policies, minimization of environmental impacts, ensuring cost effectiveness, and promotion of equity.

Mr. Ranu discussed the concerns and constraints regarding the various potential northern alignments. He said re-scoping and public meetings are needed for expanded northern alignment study options. He referred the Board to six proposed new alignments to be studied, including two that would not terminate at Union Station, but elsewhere in downtown Los Angeles, with transfers to other lines that would complete the trip to Union Station. He said the next steps are to complete the study by the end of 2018 and to identify \$5 million in funding to carry out the implementation strategy.

The Executive Director presented a report which recommended opposition to SB 827, which would exempt transit-rich housing projects from various requirements, including local controls on residential density. She said the Planning Directors Committee and City Managers Steering Committee had recommended opposition, which is also the position of the League of California Cities. She referred the Board to a sample letter of opposition provided by the League.

Member Tercero and Second Vice President Shryock said they agree with opposing the bill as written, but that there is a need to support ways that will add to housing development.

Member Hernandez said Eco Rapid Transit has potential as more than a transportation mode, but also has economic development potential, including housing.

It was moved by Second Vice President Shryock, seconded by Member DuBois, to oppose SB 827 as written and to direct staff to come back to the Board with other ideas for promotion of housing development. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Pineda announced that there was a consensus at the Goals and Objectives meeting of the Board to hold a retreat in the City of Avalon during the month of June and that a planning committee should be formed to work out the logistics of the retreat. He said he would appoint First Vice President Dutra and Second Vice President Shryock as well as Member Cassidy and himself to the committee and asked the Board for volunteers

to serve on the committee. Members Tercero, Davila, Wilson, Zamora, Alatorre, Saab, and Sharif volunteered to serve on the committee.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file reports A and B and to approve the appointment of the Retreat Planning Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He reported that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board had announced that \$48 million in Proposition 1 grant funds are available for projects in the lower reach of the Los Angeles River, which includes tributaries to the river. He said there would be two workshops at the COG on March 20th and 21st for cities to attend to learn about the grant opportunities.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He referred the Board to a handout showing the location of early action interchange projects on the freeway.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He reviewed the ongoing freeway interchange projects and alternatives being screened for the SR-91/I-605, I-5/I-605, and SR-60/I-605 interchanges. He said the I-605 Aesthetics Committee would be meeting next Wednesday.

Luke Klipp presented a report from the Transportation Committee. He said Mayor Garcia was happy with how the recent Transportation Summit went and would like to have more such events in the future. He reported that the Metro Board had approved I-710 Alternative 5C, but also emphasized a zero-emission truck program. He said Metro staff was instructed to put early action projects first. Mr. Klipp reported that the Metro Board had approved studying additional alignments for the northern Eco Rapid Transit corridor.

Meredith Berkson presented a report from PATH. She referred the Board to the monthly report on the homeless services and said she offered to provide city level data. She reported that ten COG cities had applied for city homeless planning grants and that a meeting would be convened on March 28th with these cities to assure that their plans align with the COG's regional plan.

The Executive Director presented an update on Cap and Trade. She said a very successful Climate Action Planning workshop had been held last week with 18 cities participating. She said an analysis of Cap and Trade funding in the Gateway Cities showed that the Gateway Cities area, with 5% of the state's population, had received 6% of the funding thus far. However, she said, we should have received a lot more because of the concentration of disadvantaged communities in our area.

It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member Tercero, to receive and file the committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the I-5 Consortium Cities JPA.

Gateway Water Management Authority Executive Officer Grace Kast presented an overview of her organization's activities. She said all Gateway cities are members of GWMA, except for Compton and La Habra Heights, as well as four water agencies. She said GWMA serves as the fiduciary for five stormwater groups and was formed to spread the costs of stormwater compliance and reduce the burden on individual cities. She said cities are facing \$1.3 billion in stormwater compliance projects.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

Michael Kodama presented a report from Eco-Rapid Transit. He introduced Julia Brown of Metro Community Relations, who announced upcoming meetings regarding the environmental analysis of the proposed project route. Mr. Kodama said he would be visiting city councils to talk about transit-oriented development opportunities.

Danielle Soto presented a report from the South Coast AQMD. She announced upcoming funding opportunities for local agencies under the MSRC's Clean Transportation Funding program. She said it is not a competitive program, that each jurisdiction's funding has been reserved, based on a match for its AB 2766 allocation. She also announced three upcoming meetings in Wilmington for the public to learn more about the SCAQMD's current and future efforts to reduce air pollution in the region.

Julia Brown presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. She said the next meeting of the Sector Council would be held tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in Huntington Park. She reported that Metro had launched the I-710 Livability Initiative.

Irene Lopez-Muro presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. She reviewed the training and charter high school that serve youths between 18 and 25 in the Gateway Cities area. She said they had held their first session of training in installation of solar panels. She said an internship program had been initiated in the cities of South Gate and Downey. She said the Corps will be doing a fire restoration project in the Angeles National Forest and Yosemite National Park.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Dutra, to receive and file the agency reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Sharif commented on the Goals and Objectives session, saying it was very helpful and that she would like to see it held on an annual basis.

President Pineda reported that 18 cities were represented at the Goals and Objectives session and encouraged those who haven't yet participated to take part in the poll that was taken at the session. He said the COG's policies were generally validated and that the transportation mission was extended to include housing and economic development.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Secretary