

**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
May 1, 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 Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Jose Gonzalez, 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 Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Heber Marquez, City of Maywood
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk
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 Al Rios, 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 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 Diane J. Martinez, City of Paramount

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; Medford Auguste, Sr. Transportation Planner, MTA; Ayda Safaei, Community Relations Manager; Lori Woods, Mayor, City of Signal Hill; Theresa Dau-Ngo, Manager Transportation Development, POLB; Blanca Villanueva, Acting Director Government Relations, POLB; Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities; Kevin Chu, Assistant City Manager, City of Paramount; John Moreno, City Manager, City of Paramount; Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member City of Artesia; Ken Beilke, Office of Senator Bob Archuleta; Scott Collins, Office of Senator Bob Archuleta; Gladis Deras, Senior Engineer, City of South Gate; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit; Chau Vu, Public Works Directors; City of Bell Gardens; Karina Macias, Council Member, City of Huntington Park; 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 GCCOG Genny Cisneros.

President Fernando Dutra called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Jesse Alvarado from Hawaiian Gardens.

There were no amendments or changes to the agenda.

There were no public comments

Under Matters from Staff; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer asked about rescheduling the July 3rd Board meeting, stating that in the past, this meeting has been moved back to the last week in June. Moving the meeting back may conflict with an LA County Mayors' meeting. It was suggested that there be a Board meeting at the COG retreat, however it was pointed out that there wasn't a quorum for the retreat. Pfeffer suggested polling for the 26th and the 3rd to see if there's enough attendance. President Dutra instructed staff to send out an email survey for the date.

The next topic was the upcoming COG retreat and the draft flyer. She also pointed out a letter to Congress Member Alan Lowenthal suggesting certain high priority transportation projects be included in discussions for the next transportation bill authorization. The letter highlighted the COG's priorities. She went on to explain that the I-710 project update requested at the last meeting would take place next month as this month's agenda was full.

Pfeffer announced that both the COG and Eco-Rapid Transit JPA had been nominated and received several American Planning Association awards. The Awards will be given out June 20th.

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

President Dutra introduced Ayda Safaei, Metro Communications Manager, who gave a presentation on the New Blue – Metro Blue Line Improvements program. She began with a high level overview of the New Blue project. She indicated that most of the work is not clearly evident but there is a complete renovation of all major Blue Line systems. The noticeable improvements are renovated stations and the introduction of digital displays. The line has been closed from downtown Long Beach to the Watts Tower station. She discussed the work being done on the Willowbrook station and plaza. She went through a set of slides that highlighted the improvements, including new signage and paint. She indicated that the Northern segment work will close the line from the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks to downtown Los Angeles for approximately 8 months; a bus bridge will be implemented to allow for service continuity. The Expo/Blue Line interface will also close two Expo Line Stations for two months. She reviewed the bus service lines that will substitute for the Metro Blue Line service from Rosa Parks north to downtown Los Angeles.

Lastly, she communicated where to get detailed information on the remainder of the New Blue work.

The report was received and filed.

The next item was the re-agendized request for approval of a new housing/planning director position for the COG. Funding for the position is based on a 1% assessment for the local return portion of SB-2. Each city has a population based local return allocation and the COG would assess accordingly. Pfeffer indicated the need for a planning director who has a focus on housing, an area of expertise not currently on staff. She reviewed the use of funds and indicated that cities without approved housing elements cannot apply for the funds. She has arranged to bring in HCD staff and consultants for housing element assistance and assistance in applying for these local return funds.

President Dutra discussed the amount of local return funding due each city and indicated that the additional position would be of great value to the COG. Ray Dunton asked how the housing funds would be distributed after this year and would this process be consistent in the future. Pfeffer replied that the process for distribution of outer years funding has not been determined. The allocation window has just opened and will run through November 30th. Brent Tercero - City of Pico Rivera, asked if cities without housing elements have been contacted. Nancy Pfeffer indicated that all cities had been contacted and that most Gateway Cities are close to completing the update of their housing elements.

It was moved by Member DuBois and seconded by Member Lima to approve the proposed assessment. The item was approved unanimously.

The next item was an approval of the Gateway Cities Service Council positions for submission to the MTA. Council Member Al Rios, Council Member Karina Macias, and Mayor Lori Woods were re-appointed to the Metro Gateway Service Council.

It was moved by Member Pineda and seconded by Member Tercero to approve the appointments. The item was approved unanimously.

The next item was planning issues with the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit (WSAB/Eco) project and the formation of a short-term, ad-hoc committee for the project. Exec. Dir. Pfeffer discussed the potential benefit from development opportunities within the corridor cities and the need to address the entire corridor. She reviewed the proposed committee members starting with Diane DuBois as Chair and an additional Board member with the rest of the committee being filled out by the corridor city managers. Ray Dunton – City of Bellflower, asked for the committee duration; which would be between 3 months to 6 months. The committee would return with a recommendation for moving forward with a plan for managing the various aspects of the project for all stakeholders. President Dutra reviewed the four areas of inquiry indicated in the report and highlighted the financial aspects of the work that should move forward. Diane DuBois talked about creating structures and policies to move forward. There was a general discussion about the number of elected officials for the committee. Pfeffer read the proposed composition of the Committee; three elected officials and 11 City Managers from the Corridor cities. Member Dunton asked if the COG was going to become a mediator between the JPA and the MTA. DuBois explained that the purpose of the ad-hoc committee was to get the corridor cities to work together whether they were part of the JPA or not. Jhonny Pineda –City of Huntington Park proposed three additional COG Board members for the committee. Ali Saleh moved to add three more Board members. Pfeffer clarified that City Managers along the alignment would be instrumental in making this work. Member Tony Lima – City of Artesia indicated that some of the city managers along the alignment opposed the line or were trying to get their best deal as individual jurisdictions. Member DuBois repeated that the goal was to reunify the alignment cities to proceed effectively.

President Dutra asked for a vote on the additional three additional COG Board members. This Motion passed. COG Counsel Ivy Tsai asked for clarity on accomplishing items 1-4 as the scope for the sub-committee. Board members Jhonny Pineda, Tony Lima, Alex Saab and Ray Dunton in addition to Diane Dubois were named to the committee. Member Dunton indicated he would defer to Bellflower Councilmember Juan Garza to represent Bellflower.

Ivy Tsai again requested clarity on the subcommittee purpose items 1-4 and the outcomes of whatever the Subcommittee decides. She repeated the four names and the Board voted in concurrence.

It was moved by Member Saleh and seconded by Member Pineda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next item was the request for funding for the Eco-Rapid Joint Powers Authority (Eco-JPA). Exec. Dir. Pfeffer went over the existing agreement with the MTA and the request for \$82,000 to be returned to the Eco-JPA. She then reviewed the elements for the total funding request for an additional \$302,000 to cover additional scope. She asked for permission to request funding on behalf of the cities. Eco-Rapid Transit JPA Executive Director, Mike Kodama was asked which cities were physically along the alignment and provided that information.

It was moved by Member Chico and seconded by Member Tercero. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item was approval of a letter to oppose AB 1356 requiring cities with a cannabis initiative vote of 50% or higher to approve cannabis licenses.

It was moved by Member Tercero and seconded by Member Lima. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item was support for the Governor's \$750 million Housing package. The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$750-million grant program to spur short-term housing planning and production. Of this funding, \$250 million would be provided to local governments and regional planning agencies (such as SCAG) in the form of technical assistance grants. These grants could be used by local jurisdictions to help achieve higher RHNA targets through such activities as rezoning for greater density, completing environmental clearance, permitting units, and revamping local processes to speed up production. The remaining \$500 million would be offered to local governments in the form of incentive grants once certain milestones are achieved. These grants could be used for more flexible local government purposes. COG staff recommends sending the attached support letter for the Governor's proposal. The Board voted to send the letter.

It was moved by Member Garcia and seconded by Member Tercero. The motion was approved unanimously.

MTA Director and Long Beach Mayor Garcia gave a report on the MTA Board meeting and other MTA activities. He emphasized that the WSAB/Eco-Rapid project is the most important transit project for Supervisors' Hahn and Solis as well as his office. He relayed that a 3P consultant has been engaged to do financial modeling of the project.

Mayor Garcia then gave a report on the NextGen Bus study and what it entails. He indicated that he would call for a summit with the other municipal operators and the MTA to look at bus service in a holistic manner. He mentioned that the Muni Operators are also reviewing their service for improvements and integration. He mentioned that there is an effort to expand the TAP card to allow for greater utilization of the TAP card and create a digital TAP card.

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

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

President Dutra appointed Council Member Robert Copeland from the City of Signal Hill to the SCAG Energy & Environment Committee. This appointment replaced Larry Forester from Signal Hill.

It was moved by Member Garcia and seconded by Member Tercero to approve the appointment. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from the Board.

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