

**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  
November 4, 2015**

First Vice President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: President Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
First Vice President Al Austin, City of Long Beach  
Second Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia  
Member Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy, City of Avalon  
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens  
Member George Ray, City of Cerritos  
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce  
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton  
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy  
Member Sean Ashton, City of Downey  
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood  
Member Leonard Shryock, City of Norwalk  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate  
Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier  
Member Connie M. Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Member Joseph Martinez, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT: Immediate Past President Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry  
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach  
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello  
Member Jay Sarno, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: KeAndra Dodds, Housing and Transportation Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Downey Director of

Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Diana Tang; Lara Larramendi, District Director, Congresswoman Janice Hahn; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit; Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, SCAG; Kevin Gilhooly, Regional Affairs Officer, SCAG; Danielle Soto, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Mike Bassett, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Megan Clark, Executive Assistant, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Meredith Berkson, Director, South County CES, PATH Partners; Jeff Farber, Executive Director, Helpline Youth Counseling; Juan Garcia, Housing Outreach Navigator, Helpline Youth Counseling; Patty Martinez, Housing Outreach Navigator, Helpline Youth Counseling; Mary Ramirez, Case Manager, Helpline Youth Counseling; Estela Alferez, Senior Outreach Specialist, Helpline Youth Counseling; Jerard Wright, Policy Analyst, Move LA; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Consultant Engineer and I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

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

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by member Lima, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously, with Member Ashton abstaining.

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy for the SCAG region. He said one in three children in the SCAG region lives in poverty and the answer is to create economic opportunity, which in this region is to build infrastructure. He said there is \$75 billion in the plan for goods movement. He said technology will have a major impact and make this plan very different from previous ones.

Mr. Ikhata referred to the millennial generation as exhibiting different behavior than earlier ones in terms of mobility and living preferences, but it is too early to say whether this is a long lasting trend. He said we are slowly rebuilding the old Red Line system, but at a much higher cost.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Newcomer presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness which recommended that the Board authorize the retention of a consultant to identify and analyze current gaps in services to the homeless population in the Gateway Cities. He said this study is supported by Supervisor Knabe, who has offered to fully fund the cost of the consultant study. He said the recommendation was to authorize the Executive Director to work with Supervisor Knabe on the selection and retention of a consultant.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Aceituno, to approve the recommendation of the Committee on Homelessness to authorize the Executive Director to work with Supervisor Knabe on the retention of a consultant to perform this study. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. She said the Technical Advisory Committee, Corridor Advisory Committee, and Project Committee had met in October and a consensus among Caltrans, Metro, and the community was brought to the Project Committee for a holistic approach on the I-710 EIR/EIS. She reported that the Project Committee had approved pursuing a Caltrans Sustainability Grant to fund transportation elements of the I-710 Livability Initiative.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. She said the Technical Advisory Committee had met in October and received updates from Metro on the I-605 Hot Spots projects.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the two freeway corridor reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the Transportation Committee had recommended that the Board seek answers to the following questions before deciding whether to support an extension to Measure R and an additional tax:

1. How does MTA intend to address completing the Measure R commitments through the use of new tax revenue and the allocation of "other" transportation funds?
2. How does not specifically mentioning traffic congestion benefit or support a new sales tax initiative?
3. How will the MTA address transportation issues in areas where the need far outweighs the local determinant: population, jobs?
4. Will there be a local return designated at a minimum of 25%?

It was moved by Member Newcomer, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meredith Berkson, PATH Partners, introduced Jeff Farber, Executive Director of Helpline Youth Counseling, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the homeless services provided by Helpline Youth Services as the agency responsible for providing the services under PATH in Local Coordinating Area 1 (LCA 1). He identified the cities in LCA 1 as Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate, and Vernon. He said that during the previous quarter LCA had housed 43 homeless, outreached to 131 unduplicated neighbors, and case managed 351 clients. He cited a case study in which a formerly homeless 59 year old woman living on the streets in Huntington Park had been successfully placed in permanent housing.

Ms. Berkson reported that the LAHSA homeless count will now be done on an annual basis. She said so far the cities of Bell Gardens and South Gate had opted in to participate in the count.

Member Sziebl asked what it means for a city to “opt in”. Ms. Berkson responded that the city provides a deployment site and a deployment coordinator. However, most people who participate in the count are community volunteers.

It was moved by Member Newcomer, seconded by Member Aceituno, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nancy Pfeffer presented a report from the Committee on Sustainability. She said the Committee had met on October 12<sup>th</sup> and the main item of discussion was the proposed updated guidelines for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program administered by the Strategic Growth Council. She said the consensus was the draft guidelines are still unfavorable for the disadvantaged communities of the Gateway Cities and that the COG enjoys a unique opportunity to influence this situation because the leadership of both the California Senate and Assembly are representatives from our region.

It was moved by Member Sharif, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She reported that five of the six segments of the project (all but Valley View) are ahead of schedule. She said the JPA is pursuing strategies to fund the I-5 gap from I-605 to I-710.

Member Ashton asked when the Florence Avenue Bridge will be taken down. Ms. Kirrin responded that it would happen after the end of the school year.

It was moved by Member Shryock, seconded by Member Ashton, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

Eco-Rapid Transit Executive Director Michael Kodama presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. He said OLDA is now moving into the environmental stage of the project and that Metro is working on the scope of work. He announced that speakers at the November 18<sup>th</sup> Transportation Summit in Artesia will include State Senator Tony Mendoza, MTA Executive Director Phil Washington, and SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhata.

It was moved by Member Sharif, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Danielle Soto presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. She said the Air District is working with the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma on the November 10<sup>th</sup> program on the Impact of Air Pollution on Human Health. She said the results of the MATES IV study would be presented at the event. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. He reported that, as a result of a resignation, there is a vacancy for an elected official to fill on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. He said anyone wishing to serve would be welcome. He said Metro is looking to narrow the options for the Gold Line Phase II extension.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Newcomer, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mike Bassett, Executive Director of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Corps' Gateway Cities Charter School. He said there is 100% unemployment among the high school dropouts who enter the school and talked about the difference in the lives of those who graduate from the school with their high school diploma. He talked of the advantages of using the Conservation Corps on projects, including their exemptions from competitive bid requirements and from prevailing wage and Davis Bacon requirements.

Member Hernandez asked what jobs are performed by the Corps. Mr. Bassett responded that they include landscaping, planting drought resistant plants, and flat sidewalk repair.

Member Martinez asked how they get people to sign up for the Corps. Mr. Bassett said they need to be a high school dropout but can just call any of the Corps' three sites.

The COG Executive Director said cities need to provide work projects for the Corps.

It was moved by Member Newcomer, seconded by Member Sharif, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from the President.

It was moved by Member Sharif, seconded by Member Ashton, to adjourn.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.