

**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  
September 4, 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce  
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  
Member Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Member Cory Moss, City of Industry  
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 Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello  
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk  
Member Brenda Olmos, City of Paramount  
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate  
Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier  
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT:

Member Roberto Uranga, 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: Lakewood City Manager Thaddeus McCormack; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Sharon Weissman, Metro Board Deputy to Director Robert Garcia; Sarah Patterson, Regional Affairs Officer, SCAG; Melani Smith, Senior Director, TOC, Metro; Dano Ortega, DMH 8A7; George Alves, DMH SPA 7; Danielle Soto, SCAQMD; Daisy Gomez, DMH LA County; Brenda Chour, DMH; Mark Stowell, La Mirada; Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities; 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Brenda Olmos, City of Paramount.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

Under items from staff, Nancy Pfeffer, COG Executive Director, explained the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Webinar Notice that was placed at their places. An additional informational paper was the River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) notice. Pfeffer went on to discuss the COG's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant which is coming to an end. TCC is designed to serve the top 5% of disadvantaged communities. Northern California factions are trying to stretch the definition to include the top 10% as there aren't any of the top 5% in northern California. She stated that the COG, along with LA County, is pushing back on changing the formula until all of the 5% cities receive funding. The Executive Director then pointed out a letter from Assembly Member Garcia who did not vote consistent with the COG's desires on the CEQA exemption for housing (SB 450). She also added a response to an inquiry from Member Jhonny Pineda concerning the COG's potential for levying taxes.

The last matter was a reminder that the deadline for the applying for the SB 2 planning funds is November 30.

Executive Director Pfeffer opened a discussion on the conflict with the COG Board meeting date of January 1, 2020. COG staff circulated an email poll and was unable to get a quorum; and therefore, will be recirculating the poll. An additional conflict exists with the scheduled December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting where there is a conflict with the City of Paramount's Christmas celebration. Genny Cisneros noted that there was a discussion of moving the meeting to another venue, she indicated that she did find an alternative location to Paramount but there was a significant nonrefundable deposit. President DuBois asked if there is a viable alternative to have a December meeting; Pfeffer stated that allowing COG staff and Treasurer to approve expenses was a possibility with a follow-on meeting to ratify those expenses. Ray Dunton expressed concerned about the

possibility of missing two months. Board Members from Bell and Bellflower offered locations within their cities as possible alternatives. Other Board Members offered various locations including the new Long Beach City Hall. Pfeffer said that an additional poll would be circulated for a new date for the January meeting.

Consent Calendar - It was moved by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Solanki to approve the Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar was approved unanimously.

President DuBois introduced Melani Smith, Senior Director TOC, LA Metro, who provided an overview of the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit Corridor (WSAB/Eco-Rapid Transit) Transit Oriented Development Strategic Implementation Plan (TODSIP). Smith reviewed the process which began in 2016 with a \$2 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). She stated that the process was fueled and created by the local jurisdictions and LA County. Each City contributed to the development of the TOD implementation activities. She went over the outreach strategy which include coordinating with the cities and having pop-ups in various community events to gather general public input.

Smith talked about the planning ahead and how that process supports cohesive planning in the communities. She emphasized enabling people to stay within their communities in addition to creating new housing and business opportunities.

She discussed the methodology for dividing the stations into five typologies and assigning strategies to each station. She talked about governance, equitable development, affordable housing, transit supportive planning, place-making, mobility, access and connectivity, and sustainability and resilience to promote a healthy environment. Each strategy may or may not apply to each individual station depending upon the station area. She explained the five station typologies and the recommended land uses. She went over the high-level design principles which are a good place to start specific planning. She focused on the information that was provided on each station area to assist the city with moving forward further planning activities.

She went over the MTA support for cities from SB-1 funding to certain cities.

Immediate Past President, Fernando Dutra, asked how the information was collected from the cities and what marketing information was gathered, Smith gave the name of the marketing company that did the work. There was discussion on what was the next step for the TODSIP and how would the cities implement these strategies.

It was moved by Member Richardson and seconded by Member Zamora to ask for the MTA representatives to request additional funding to further this effort. The item was approved unanimously.

President DuBois introduced the next item concerning the RHNA allocations prefacing that this year the numbers are worse. She turned to Executive Director Pfeffer to explain

the process and the differences. Pfeffer discussed the changes and how there are more sticks than carrots with this new RHNA process.

GCCOG Assistant Planner, Stephanie Cadena, took over and explained how the SCAG RHNA subcommittee works and how the RHNA allocation process works. She indicated that Long Beach Councilmember Rex Richardson represents our subregion on the committee. She talked about the methodology review process. She went over the comment letter in the packet that is due Friday. She went over the COG review of the methodology and the various elements of the comment letter. Cadena indicated that the Planning Directors had several meetings on this letter and the City Manager's Steering Committee reviewed the letter twice as well. Pfeffer stated that the RHNA numbers exceeded the COGs wildest estimates by over 300,000 units. She went over some of the compliance for the RHNA counts. COG President Diane DuBois asked if all of the cities have been advised about the numbers, she then called for discussion.

Councilman Rex Richardson spoke having been part of the Committee stated that LA County was not organized like Orange County. He reviewed the SCAG process and how Orange County jurisdictions collectively fought their numbers. Richardson stated that there needs to be conversation regarding a focused response to the RHNA allocations. He went on discuss the need to respond to the methodology and the need for individual cities to also send letters similar to the COG letter and the City of Long Beach letter.

It was moved by Member Richardson and seconded by Member Pineda to approve the letter and provide sample letters to cities for their use. The item was approved unanimously.

President DuBois introduced Gilbert Saldate, the COG Homelessness Coordinator, he remarked on how well the LCAs work for the individual cities. He commented that he will work to reenergize the connection with the cities, LCAs and service providers; identifying people within each city that work closely with the LCA and the homeless population. He discussed Results Based Accountability (RBA) to measure the results of existing efforts and to identify what can be done better. Saldate then introduced the LA County Department of Mental Health team; Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement (HOME) unit that works with the severely mentally ill and are willing and able to work with the most severe mentally ill cases. The team is also willing to work with the cities to provide them with assistance to move this population into shelters and access services.

Saldate also indicated that he needs more participation on the Gateway Cities Homelessness Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) led by the City Manager of Lakewood, Thaddeus McCormack. Saldate talked about the County's Measure H staff and how they have a slightly different culture for resolving homelessness at the County level and how he intends to get the County to a shared place of understanding. He challenged the County to work with the cities on Individual plans that suit each city. He wants to help the cities get their available funding; including Measure H and SB 2, and is planning to provide workshops and technical assistance opportunities for cities.

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

President DuBois introduced Karen Heit, COG Transportation Analyst, who gave reports and recommendations for COG support for two pieces of legislation; HR 2723 and SB 127.

She began with HR 2723, sponsored by Congressman Alan Lowenthal. She began by stating that H.R. 2723 offers a dedicated revenue source by implementing a proposed national 1% waybill fee. The entity paying for the cargo to be shipped via ground transportation within the United States would be required to pay a fee of 1% of the total cost of transportation.

She went on to explain that potential expenditures for this fund coincide well with project and programmatic elements of the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor projects. Qualifying projects could include capital freight projects on roads, rail, intermodal connectors, including first and last mile connectors, rail grade separations, on-dock rail and landside infrastructure on ports and airports included in a State Freight Plan. An important element of this proposal is the minimum five-percent of funds that will be made available under the Program each fiscal year for zero-emission freight demonstration projects.

She finished with stating that the MTA supports this bill and is pulling together a Los Angeles County Goods Movement Strategic Plan in coordination with regional partners, including the Gateway Cities COG, that are involved with the goods movement sector. President DuBois called for questions.

Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce, asked how much money was going to be allocated to local entities. Heit stated that the bill would establish goods movement fund but did not establish rules for distribution other than broad categories. Additional rules will have to be developed for distribution for state, regional and local entities.

There was discussion on whether the revenues accrued will be large enough for the entire country, as well as the 5% allocated for zero-emission vehicles being sufficient. Ray Dunton, City of Bellflower, made a motion not to support executing the recommended support letter. Member Dunton stated that there are a lot of taxes and very little benefit - \$10 billion is too little benefit. Member Rex Richardson spoke in favor of supporting the bill. COG Counsel Ivy Tsai clarified the various Motions proposed for the bill and recommended a show of hands to get an accurate count.

The vote was recounted with 14 members voting not to execute the support letter. A show of hands was made to support the letter and the count was 8 members who supported the letter. The motion to support the bill failed.

Brent Tercero stated that not sending the letter wasn't a snub just not a support. Jhonny Pineda said the COG should get involved with determining policy that impacts it.

There was additional discussion on the HR 2743. Member Richardson suggested inviting Lowenthal's staff to discuss the Bill, Member Tercero reminded them that Lowenthal has to get his bills through Congress with considerations from other states.

In the future the COG will try and get someone from the Congressman's office to discuss the bill.

Heit next presented a report requesting conditional support for SB – 127 (Scott Wiener – San Francisco). This bill requires Caltrans to include Complete Streets improvements into the State Highway Operation Maintenance and Protection Program (SHOPP). The SHOPP Program is the allocation of state funds that are completely controlled by Caltrans for highway maintenance and safety improvements. The Bill requires Caltrans consider Complete streets elements where SHOPP projects on freeways or state highways cross over or under local streets; allowing for the use of SHOPP funds on Complete Streets items like sidewalk improvements or bike lanes.

COG staff is suggesting support for this Bill as it may help provide an additional source of funding for the COG arterial complete streets program. The draft letter makes suggestions for additional language that strengthens the need to work with local cities to conform to locally approved projects and plans. There was some discussion concerning the benefit to COG cities.

Member Jhonny Pineda made a motion to support SB-127 with suggested language changes, Member Alcantar seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director Pfeffer presented an item developed at the request of the Board concerning the make-up and origin of the City Manager's Steering Committee. She reviewed the roles and responsibilities as stipulated in the JPA Agreement describing the City Manager's Steering Committee. The primary duty of this Committee is to advise the COG Board. She reviewed the existing membership and anticipating upcoming vacancies that will be occurring due to three City Manager retirements.

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

President DuBois asked if there were any questions on the written reports from Committees and outside Agencies; there were none.

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

There were no announcements from the COG President.

President DuBois asked for any announcement from Board members. Member Tercero – Pico Rivera, brought up the tainted water issue within his city and asked if the COG can do something. There was discussion about putting together a committee to address the issue and reaching out to the Gateway Water Management Authority.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director