President Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT:  President Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
First Vice President Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens  
Second Vice President Tony Lima, City of Artesia  
Immediate Past President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Michael Ponce, City of Avalon  
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos  
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce  
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton  
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy  
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey  
Member Reynaldo O. Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Brian Bergman, City of La Habra Heights  
Member Rosa E. Perez, City of Huntington Park  
Member James Johnson, City of Long Beach  
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood  
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello  
Member Marcel Rodarte, City of Norwalk  
Member Luis M. Gonzalez, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member Bill DeWitt, City of South Gate  
Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier  
Member Angie Castro, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Ex Officio Member Doug Drummond, Port of Long Beach

ABSENT:  Member Ana Maria Quintana, City of Bell  
Member Larry Mowles, City of La Mirada  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach  
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood  
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Gurule led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Second Vice President Lima, seconded by Member Sziebl, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Yale, MTA Executive Officer for Capital Planning, gave a PowerPoint presentation on MTA’s Measure R Project Acceleration Plan. He said the plan is to use Proposition A funds on debt service after 2040 for transit projects in order to accelerate the Measure R program. On the highway side, he said, Proposition C funds will be used. He said the Plan requires a two-thirds vote of approval by the MTA Board of Directors. He said the Board is expected to consider the matter in June.

Signal Hill City Manager asked how local return funds from Propositions A and C would be affected. Mr. Yale responded that MTA cannot bond against local return monies.

Member Johnson asked if under the Plan MTA would be borrowing money from future generations’ projects to fund current projects. Mr. Yale responded that the life of the projects to be funded under the Plan would be longer than the debt
service required for the projects. Member Johnson asked if there is a Metro policy that no borrowing would go beyond the life of a funded project. Mr. Yale said he didn’t know if such a policy existed and said he would get back to Member Johnson about that.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee recommending support for Assembly Bill 750 (Garcia), sponsored by the City of Downey, and Assembly Bill 741 (Brown), sponsored by the City of Cerritos. He said AB 750 would extend some of the economic development tools currently enjoyed by charter cities, such as the ability to write-down the cost of city owned property, to general law cities in order to encourage economic development. He said AB 741 would, over a period of three years, increase the property tax share received by “no and low” property tax cities from 7% to 15%. He said those cities had been particularly hit hard by the loss of redevelopment.

Member Barrows said cities that lost redevelopment saw that money go to the County. He said AB 741 only brings back part of the lost revenues.

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Davis, to approve the recommendation to support AB 750 and AB 741. The motion was approved, with members Castro and Harris opposed.

The Executive Director introduced a DVD regarding the “Gateway Cities Technology Plan for Goods Movement”, which was made possible by a federal earmark from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. Jerry Wood said the Gateway Cities Technology Plan is aimed at using intelligent transportation systems to improve the efficiency of goods movement in Southern California through the integration of real-time road and traveler technologies, along with intermodal freight, port, and truck technologies.

Gateway Cities COG Engineer Jerry Wood gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan. He said the Plan is aimed at developing a unified, subregional multimodal transportation improvement strategy. It will include an analysis of all ongoing and planned transportation projects involving all transportation modes, from freeways and highways to pedestrian and bicycle facilities. He said the plan will involve collaboration and coordination with Gateway Cities’ neighbors, partner agencies, and stakeholders.

First Vice President Infanzon inquired as to the timeline for the integration of these projects. Mr. Wood responded that the project should be completed either at the end of this year or early next year.

It was moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Alatorre, to receive and file reports A, C, and D. The motion was approved unanimously.
Barbara Levine, Senior Regional Manager for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, presented a quarterly report on economic activity. She said there have been fairly consistent gains across industries, although there is some concern about the effect of the federal budget sequestration. She said unemployment had decreased from 10.8% to 9.6% in the state, and from 11.6% to 10.3% in the county, over the past year.

Ms. Levine reported that there has been a 6.2% increase in construction, which leads growth; however, manufacturing continues to lose jobs, as does government. She said there is still a threat that companies are still looking at the option of moving out of the county or state.

Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer introduced Glendora Mayor Pro Tem Judy Nelson, who addressed the Board on the proposed establishment of a national recreation area in the San Gabriel River watershed. She said Congresswoman Judy Chu and Senator Barbara Boxer will be introducing legislation to establish a national recreation area overlay of the San Gabriel Mountains and San Gabriel River down to Santa Fe Springs. She said the overlay would eventually extend to the ocean.

Mayor Pro Tem Nelson expressed concern if the San Gabriel Region National Recreation Area Partnership makeup is not balanced, there could be serious consequences. Without a city voice, local control would be lost. She said her request tonight is to see if someone from the Gateway Cities COG would come to a meeting on April 15th regarding this proposal. Furthermore, a letter stating the importance of representation on the Partnership would be important.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing asked if eminent domain is still a threat. Mayor Pro Tem Nelson said the legislation is being written to state that eminent domain will not be allowed.

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file reports E and F.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the traffic model is being updated for Alternative 6C. He said the project team is on schedule to re-circulate the EIR/EIS early next year. He said the next Project Committee meeting would be held at the end of May.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the I-605 Congestion “Hot Spots” Feasibility Study had been completed and that MTA is moving forward with project study report on three major freeway interchanges: SR-91; I-105; and I-5. He said an initial batch of 30 arterial intersections to be improved is moving forward to the Corridor Cities Committee.
Transportation Deputy Karen Heit presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the Committee had heard the report from David Yale regarding the Measure R Project Acceleration Plan. She said MTA Board Member Diane DuBois thanked everyone who turned out for the City Selection Committee meeting at which MTA Board Member Ara Najarian was confirmed for a new term.

Colleen Murphy, Associate Director for PATH Partners, presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. She said there had been a larger scale of outreach in Lakewood and Long Beach in collaboration with County agencies, particularly to the homeless encampments along the San Gabriel River. She said PATH had started screening applicants to find housing under the grant program for veterans. She said they had received 11 or 12 applications thus far. She reported that the program had now outreached to over 900 individuals, placed 23 persons in emergency shelters and 22 into permanent housing. She said 84 homeless “hot spots” had been identified and over 950 calls and emails had been received by the outreach team.

It was moved by Second Vice President Lima, seconded by Member Barrows, to receive and file committee reports A through E. The motion was approved unanimously.

Karen Heit presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She referred the Board to a news release on the schedule of various closures due to the ongoing project on I-5 in the cities of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

OLDA Executive Director Mike Kodama presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. He said the Authority is working on a Transit Oriented Development guide book. He said OLDA is anticipating refinement of the Alternatives Analysis.

Leeor Alpern presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He reported on a battery recycling facility in Vernon that has been producing high levels of arsenic in its emissions. He said there would be public meetings in the area around the facility regarding what the company will be doing to reduce the emissions.

Mr. Alpern announced the lawnmower exchange program to be held in Long Beach on May 4th. He said discounts up to 50% on new lawn mowers would be available. He announced that nominations were now open for the annual Clean Air Awards Program.
David Hershensen presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said MTA would be ramping up service for the Long Beach Grand Prix, which will take place on the weekend of May 20th. Additional service will also be available for the Festival of Books at USC.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, seconded by Second Vice President Lima, to receive and file the agency reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Hadjinian announced the San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance Awards Banquet scheduled for May 16th in Baldwin Park. He said they would be honoring Monrovia Councilmember Mary Ann Lutz and former Congressman Esteban Torres. He also said there would be a commemoration of the Armenian genocide to be held on April 23rd in Montebello.

There were no matters from the President.

It was moved by Second Vice President Lima, seconded by Member Davis, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.