Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, California
May 1, 2013

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo O. Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Rosa E. Perez, City of Huntington Park
Member Andrew Sarega, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member James Johnson, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Member Marcel Rodarte, City of Norwalk
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Luis M. Gonzalez, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier
Member Angie Castro, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Ex Officio Member Doug Drummond, Port of Long Beach

ABSENT: Member Michael Ponce, City of Avalon
Member Ana Maria Quintana, City of Bell
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Brian Bergman, City of La Habra Heights
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors and  
Executive Committee  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
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ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; La Mirada City Manager Tom Robinson; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Pico Rivera Public Works Director/City Engineer Arturo Cervantes; Pico Rivera Associate Engineer Gladis Deras; South Gate Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Artesia Public Information Officer Andrew Perry; Julia Juarez, Field Representative, Senator Ricardo Lara; MTA Executive Officer Brad McAllester; MTA Transportation Planning Manager Stacy Alameida; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershensen; SCAQMD Senior Public Information Specialist Leeor Alpern; League of California Cities Public Affairs Manager Kristine Guerrero; I-5 JPA Executive Director/Authority Engineer Yvette Kirrin; Colleen Murphy, Associate Director, Community Initiatives, PATH Partners; David Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Ports Australia; Sally Anderson, Ports Australia; Chris Wornum, Economist Principal, Cambridge Systematics; Rafael Garcia, Municipal Manager, Republic Services; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

President Daniels introduced David Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Ports Australia, who was in the United States to visit the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Mr. Anderson thanked Jerry Wood and Genny Cisneros of the COG staff for their assistance and talked about the similar interests that the ports of Australia share with the Gateway Cities COG regarding trade and goods movement.

Member Sarega 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 Hurtado, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.
Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chairman of the City Managers Steering Committee, introduced MTA Executive Officer Brad McAllester, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Pilot Nexus Study Results for the proposed MTA Congestion Mitigation Fee. Mr. McAllester said the reason that the fee is being studied is that the current system of debits and credits has resulted in 25% of cities being at risk of non-compliance with the legislative intent of reducing traffic congestion. The mitigation fee would fund transportation projects to reduce congestion and would be based on a one-time fee on all new development.

Mr. McAllester said local control would be retained because each jurisdiction would collect the fee and control the fee revenues. The fee could also serve as a match for the Call-for-Projects from MTA. Cities that already have a fee would receive credit for it and not have to adopt a new fee. He said the nexus analysis is required by state law and is intended to determine a reasonable link between the fee and transportation projects which reduce congestion. It is estimated that the fee would produce $5.1 billion countywide over 20 years for transportation projects. Mr. McAllester said the results of the nexus study would be reported to the MTA Board this month.

Second Vice President Lima said he is concerned about adding a development fee of $2,000 for a single family home. Mr. McAllester responded that it would amount to less than 1% of the cost of a home.

Member Rodarte said that cities that are already built out would have trouble attracting development. Mr. McAllester responded that is the reason they are recommending a county-wide fee.

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

The Deputy General Counsel announced that now was the time for the Board to consider nominations for the three elected official seats on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council whose terms are expiring. She said that incumbents Gene Daniels and Lillie Dobson had requested to be re-nominated and that two council members from Bell, Ana Maria Quintana and Violeta Alvarez, had submit letters of interest as well. The Deputy General Counsel invited those candidates who were present to say a few words. Members Gene Daniels and Lillie Dobson both spoke of their interest in continuing to serve on the Service Council.

It was moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Second Vice President Lima, to nominate Gene Daniels and Lillie Dobson to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.
It was moved by Member Perez, seconded by Member Hadjinian, to nominate Bell Council Member Ana Maria Quintana to vacant seat on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said work continues on the Re-circulated Draft EIR/EIS. He said the Project Committee would be meeting at the end of May to consider two early action projects and the sound walls feasibility study.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said MTA is moving forward with project study reports on the SR-91/I-605 and I-5/I-605 interchanges.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the Committee had discussed a report on the California Freight Advisory Committee, which was created by Caltrans with public and private sector representation in response to the federal MAP-21 bill, which includes a provision for the development of a National Freight Plan. Member DuBois said she had the opportunity to attend the first meeting of the CFAC on April 23rd and presented goals that have the potential to benefit the Gateway Cities.

Colleen Murphy, Associate Director for PATH Partners, presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. She reported that, over the past six months, the outreach team had contact with 2,478 homeless individuals and had opened up case management services on a thousand people. She said 252 had been referred to emergency shelters, 124 had been permanently housed, 92 people had received move-in assistance, and 39 had received motel vouchers. She said Section 8 vouchers are currently on hold because of the federal government sequestration, but that they do have access to veterans’ vouchers, which is their current focus.

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

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She referred the Board to a fact sheet regarding various closures and detours due to the ongoing project on I-5 in the cities of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs. She reported that the Shoemaker Avenue Bridge over I-5 has been demolished and will be
reconstructed beginning in June. She said the Alondra Blvd. Bridge will be closed for about one year.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said nominations were now open for the League Board of Directors. She said training for new council members will be provided at tomorrow night's meeting of the Los Angeles Division. She reported on the League's opposition to AB 5, the “Homeless Bill of Rights”, which would overrule most local public health and safety codes. She said the League is supporting measures to increase funding for cities, but is watching pending legislation regarding prevailing wages.

Member Johnson asked if all of the Proposition 39 clean energy initiative revenues have been going to schools. Ms. Guerrero responded that, yes, the Governor has directed that all of those funds be given to the schools.

Member Barrows spoke in opposition to AB 5, which, among other things, would require cities to keep restroom facilities in parks open twenty-four hours a day.

It was moved by Member Barrows, seconded by Immediate Past President Dunton, to oppose AB 5 and to have the President send a letter expressing the Board’s opposition. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

It was moved by Second Vice President Lima, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to receive and file agency reports A and B. The motion was approved unanimously.

Leor Alpern presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He announced that the lawnmower exchange program would be held on Saturday at the Long Beach Veterans Auditorium. He reported that the health risk assessment on the battery recycling facility in Vernon has found higher levels of arsenic in its emissions than permitted. He said public meetings in the area around the facility are still being scheduled. He said the State Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued an order to the company to stop operations.

David Hershensen presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He congratulated President Daniels, Member Dobson, and Member Quintana on their election to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council.
It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Member Alatorre, to receive and file agency reports C and D. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

President Daniels announced the appointments of Pico Rivera Mayor Pro Tem Brent Tercero to the SCAG Transportation Committee, Cudahy Vice Mayor Chris Garcia to the SCAG CEHD Committee, and Whittier Mayor Owen Newcomer to the COG’s Committee on Homelessness.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Dunton to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.