

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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  
August 3, 2016**

President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Al Austin, City of Long Beach  
First Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Second Vice President Fernando Dutra  
Immediate Past President Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
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 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 Sergio Calderon, City of Maywood  
Member Mike Mendez, City of Norwalk  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate  
Member Melissa Ybarra, City of Vernon  
Member KeAndra Dodds, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis  
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach

**ABSENT:** Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Fernando Vasquez, City of Downey  
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry  
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach  
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Lara Larramendi, District Director, Representative Janice Hahn; Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Manager Jorge Rifa; Compton City Manager Jerry Grooms; Bell Gardens Public Works Director Chau Vu; Downey Director of Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; La Mirada Director of Public Works Mark Stowell; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Diana Tang; Montebello City Engineering Manager Steve Forster; Pico Rivera Director of Public Works James Enriquez; South Gate Associate Engineer Gladis Deras; Elizabeth Alcantar, Field Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Meredith Berkson, PATH; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco Rapid Transit; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Z. Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 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 Sharif, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously, with members Cassidy, Dodds, Rebollo, and Egoscue abstaining.

The Executive Director reported that there had been a request received by staff that the Board consider whether it wished to have a Sheriff's deputy present at meetings of the Board for security reasons. He said the City of Paramount estimated the cost of providing a deputy would be \$75 an hour.

It was moved by Member Ray, seconded by Member Mendez, to have a Sheriff's deputy present at all meetings of the Board.

Member Hurtado said there has never been a need for police security over the eleven years that he has served on the Board.

Member Mendez said he could understand those that feel that there haven't been any issues, but when you look at what is going on in society today you can understand why this may be desirable.

Member Aceituno said the question of providing security had been brought up at a recent meeting of the Sanitation Districts.

Member Daniels said if you provide security for the Board meetings, you should have it for all meetings of the COG. He said he didn't think it was necessary.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member DuBois, to substitute a motion to table this item for further discussion at a later meeting.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to not defer consideration of this item. Members Daniels and DuBois withdrew their motion.

President Austin asked for a show of hands of those in favor and opposed to the original motion to have security provided by the Sheriff's Department. President Austin announced that the motion had failed by the show of hands.

President Austin made a presentation to Immediate Past President Saleh commending him for his year of service as President of the Board of Directors.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said the RMC Board had met on July 25<sup>th</sup> and had postponed the decision on the Proposition 1 grant recommendations. He said 40 applications had been received, with 15 being recommended for award, of which only two are located in the Gateway Cities—Signal Hill and Downey. He said the Urban Greening project has been moving and will be coming to the Board at a future meeting for a presentation.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said no TAC meeting had been held in July; there had been internal meetings on incorporating active transportation elements into the alternatives. He said the Livability Initiative had received a planning grant from Caltrans and that project will probably be active by the end of the year.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the TAC did not meet in July. He said four major projects are gearing up: I-5/I-605, which has kicked off; SR-60/I-605 and SR-91/I-605, which have been procured but not yet kicked off; and I-710/SR-91, for which the project study report will focus more on SR-91.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Saleh, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file committee reports A through C. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She announced that the Rosecrans/Marquardt rail grade separation project had received a \$25 million federal TIGER grant.

Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee as a follow up to the Board's direction to pursue an education campaign regarding the MTA sales tax ballot measure. He said they had made clear that this effort was not to be one of advocacy. He said they had approached Cerrell Associates and the Lew Edwards Group about performing the education campaign, but that Cerrell had declined because of their relationships with MTA. He said the rough cost of a grass roots education campaign would be between \$325,000 and \$400,000. He said the South Bay Cities COG is supportive of joining us in this campaign. With South Bay cities' participation, the estimated contribution that each city would be asked to provide would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Mr. Egan said the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee is to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with the Lew Edwards Group's team of consultants.

Member Hurtado said he had been hearing on the radio messages in support of the ballot measure, so time is of the essence. He asked if there had been an effort to reach out to MTA to change the expenditure plan.

Member Daniels said coming to the table is not going to be an option. He said he had attended a recent meeting of the Service Sector Council at which Mr. Washington was very firm regarding the expenditure plan moving forward.

Second Vice President Dutra asked if there had been any attempt to have a meeting. Mr. Egan responded that the I-5 JPA has made multiple attempts and have been told that the plan will not change.

Member DuBois said it is really too late to change anything.

Member Tercero said this is the reason that the COG was formed—to fight for our fair share of transportation dollars.

It was moved by Member Tercero, seconded by Member Hurtado, to direct staff to proceed with executing an agreement with the Lew Edwards Group team to proceed with the education campaign at a cost not to exceed \$400,000.

Members Zamora and Ray said the only way to get MTA back to the table is to defeat the ballot measure.

Member Cassidy said she agreed with Member Tercero, but was concerned about the cost.

President Austin said that over \$8 million will be spent in support of the measure.

Member Cassidy asked if the South Bay cities would be joining us. Mr. Egan responded that they would.

Member Sharif asked what if our city councils don't support it. Mr. Egan responded that cities that do support it will have to step up and fill the gap. Member Tercero said that is a risk we will have to take.

The Deputy General Counsel recommended that before action is taken on the motion to proceed with the consultant contract that a motion be made to add this item to the agenda as an emergency item.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Mendez, to add the consideration of the retention of a consultant team to perform an education campaign regarding the MTA sales tax measure to the agenda and to make the finding that this matter is urgent and cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The motion was approved, with Member Egoscue abstaining and Member Dodds voting no.

President Austin asked for a show of hands of those in favor of the original motion, those opposed, and those abstaining. The motion was approved by a vote of 17 ayes, 1 no, and 6 abstentions.

Meredith Berkson presented a report from PATH. She reported that we finally have the results of the 2016 Homeless Count on a city level basis and referred the Board to a sheet with the count results. She said the results of the count showed a 4% decrease in the numbers of homeless in the Gateway Cities area over the past year despite a 7% increase countywide. She invited the Board members to attend an event on Friday, hosted by Supervisor Solis, recognizing landlords that participate in the program. There was no report from the Committee on Sustainability.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Immediate Past President Saleh, to receive and file committee reports D through F. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said the state legislative session concludes on August 31<sup>st</sup>. She said the League opposes the governor's proposal to offer \$100 million in one-time affordable housing funds in exchange for making approvals of multi-family housing projects ministerial at the local level. She reported that there has still been no compromise on transportation funding.

There was no report from SCAG.

Michael Kodama presented a report from Eco-Rapid Transit. He reported that the Eco Rapid Transit Board had voted to oppose the MTA sales tax measure. He said work is proceeding on a pre-development study regarding potential transit stops along the route.

There was no report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Dave Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. He announced his retirement from Metro, saying this would be his last meeting and how much he had appreciated his thirteen years of association with the COG.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Saleh, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the agency reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Cassidy said she wished to thank the Executive Director and the COG for the assistance given to Avalon City Council in interviewing the candidates for the city manager position, and to thank PATH for its recent visit to Avalon regarding the city's homeless issue.

Member Dodds said she wanted to emphasize how important it is for landlords to accept rental vouchers in the effort to house the homeless.

President Austin announced the appointments of Member Sharif to the Committee on Homelessness and Member Hernandez to the Transportation Committee.

**Adjournment:** It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary