

**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
June 21, 2016**

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

PRESENT: First Vice President Al Austin, City of Long Beach
Second Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
Immediate Past President Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member George Ray, City of Cerritos
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy
Member Fernando Vasquez, City of Downey
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Ricardo Villarreal, City of Maywood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Member Joseph Martinez, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe

ABSENT: President Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Ivan Altamirano, City of Commerce
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello
Member Mike Mendez, City of Norwalk
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Lara Larramendi, District Director, Congresswoman Janice Hahn; Kim Tachiki-Chin, Senior Advisor, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard; Ronald Gonzalez-Lawrence, Deputy District Director, Speaker of the Assembly

Anthony Rendon; Downey Council Member Luis Marquez; South Gate Vice Mayor Maria Davila; KeAndra Dodds, Transportation Deputy, Supervisor Hilda Solis; Santa Fe Springs City Manager Thaddeus McCormack; Signal Hill City Manager Charlie Honeycutt; South Gate City Manager Michael Flad; Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier; South Gate Director of Public Works Arturo Cervantes; Lakewood Public Works Director Lisa Rapp; Caltrans Environmental Deputy Ron Kosinski; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; SCAQMD Senior Public Information Specialist Danielle Soto; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

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

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the proposed MTA ballot measure. He said the City Managers Steering Committee had met as directed by the Board on June 13th to review the revised expenditure plan for the proposed ballot measure and concluded that the revised plan was no more supportable than the original. He said there were no major changes to accommodate the COG's requests, only tweaks.

Mr. Collier said the COG's first recommendation was that second and third decade Measure R projects be the first to receive new sales tax revenues, but that MTA had reshuffled project implementation dates based upon the application of performance measures that compared idealized undefined new projects with projects like Eco Rapid Transit and I-710 that have significant analysis. He said this allows the new projects to "outperform" the Measure R projects.

Mr. Collier said only one of the six COG policy recommendations had been incorporated, and that was to allocate an additional 1% for Metrolink after 2039. He said another recommendation was partially accepted to allow for an immediate increase of 1% in the local return, with the potential for an additional 3% in 2020 if there are project savings. Of the five Gateway Cities project recommendations, Mr. Collier said, only one was adopted—adding the additional alignment for the Gold Line Phase II in the outer years of the plan (post 2057). He said one other was partially adopted by accelerating the Green Line Norwalk extension by five years. Accelerating the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco Rapid Transit, I-5, or I-710 projects was not entertained.

Mr. Collier said further project accelerations are not possible largely due to the commitment of large funding streams to projects within the City of Los Angeles, the most notable being the Sepulveda Pass project with a three segment price tag of over \$17 billion. Because of a lack of data, analysis, and identification of environmental impacts, he said, this project presents a financial risk to the plan from 2024 to 2033, the same period as the Gold Line and West Santa Ana Branch Segment II are scheduled for implementation.

Because of these issues, Mr. Collier reported that the City Managers Steering Committee determined that the expenditure plan is not supportable as it does not benefit Gateway Cities. He said the City Managers Steering Committee is asking the Board to ratify this decision.

Member DuBois thanked the Board members for taking the time to attend this special meeting. She said the first expenditure plan contained all of the Gateway Cities initiatives but had them slated for funding and construction much later than we were comfortable with. She said our Measure R project implementation dates were pushed out by decades. Member DuBois said the delay between segments I and II of the Eco Rapid Transit project had been reduced from nine to four years, and the I-5 moved forward by five years, but would not see construction until 2036.

Member DuBois said the COG Board had voted on June 1st to let the City Managers Steering Committee determine whether this COG would support the expenditure plan that was to be released after the Board meeting. The City Managers Steering Committee had, she said, determined after careful review that the implementation sequencing of the COG's projects is not satisfactory in that they are placed too far into the second and third 15-year periods of the plan.

Member DuBois said that throughout this process the COG has benefitted from the leadership of State Senator Tony Mendoza, who has worked tirelessly to improve the implementation dates for our projects. She said Senator Mendoza has worked with Senate President Pro Tem Kevin De Leon and Senator Ricardo Lara, resulting in Senator De Leon requesting the MTA Board to defer the decision on approving the revised expenditure plan until after the Senate Transportation Committee holds a hearing. She said she did not know whether MTA Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas would postpone the vote on the plan until the July meeting. The plan as it stands, she said, does not benefit the Gateway Cities or our projects. She said our Measure R projects have taken a back seat to City of Los Angeles projects which consume 50% of project funding within the first 15-year period. During the second 15-year period, she said, there is considerable risk as there is a mega project that is sequenced ahead of our projects.

Member DuBois said she would like the formal support of the COG Board in expressing displeasure and dismay at the way our Measure R projects have been placed on the back burner. She said she would like to convey to the MTA Board that the COG Board opposes the disposition of our Measure R projects and that we do not support the expenditure plan as presented.

Member Hurtado said the proposed expenditure plan means our projects go to the back of the line. First Vice President Austin said he agreed with this assessment.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Immediate Past President Tercero, to not support the proposed MTA ballot measure unless it is amended.

Downey Council Member Luis Marquez said we need to let people know why the 28 Gateway cities are opposing this tax measure.

South Gate Vice Mayor Maria Davila said we are here to represent our constituents and this expenditure plan does not serve them.

Member Daniels said what is disgusting is the arrogance of the MTA.

Member Sziebl read a statement from Supervisor Don Knabe, which said that it is clear after much internal review, questioning of Metro staff, and analysis, that the positioning of the major projects and funding levels in the new measure's expenditure plan is fatally flawed. Metro is misleading the public by saying that this is a balanced and equitable plan based on the Board's adopted process and performance metrics, when Metro's own internal scoring and ranking process for projects was flawed. This "black box" process allowed staff to accelerate or leapfrog certain projects, including new projects, ahead of the projects promised to voters by Measure R. Several projects were modeled as "heavy rail" projects to improve their mobility scores, even though they are not funded for delivery as heavy rail projects in the expenditure plan.

Member Sziebl continued to read Supervisor Knabe's statement which said, if approved, the City of Los Angeles would receive the "lion's share" of the funding for major projects that benefit mostly the City of Los Angeles and that the first fifteen to thirty years are really all about the City's projects. The rest of the county has to pay for the City's projects first, while our residents wait until 2030-50 before the rest of us in the suburbs truly benefit. The new plan proposed by the ballot measure is unbalanced and like Measure R before it would be that "LA Rules" and is more important than us. We've had to wait eight years through Measure R and are being told to wait longer while we watch as others cut in the line ahead of us. Well, that's just plain wrong.

Member Vasquez said the I-5 Joint Powers Authority had sought compromise with MTA. He said he has no confidence in the MTA Board. He said the Joint Powers Authority is outraged and wants to actively oppose the ballot measure.

Member Wilson said he echoed all of the previous comments. He said if the measure is not amended and it passes, there will be no going back.

First Vice President Austin noted that our first project would be underway until 2026.

The Executive Director said this expenditure plan hits all three of our major projects.

There being no further discussion, First Vice President Austin called for the vote. The motion was approved, with Member Martinez voting no.

First Vice President Austin said that the Board would now convene into closed session for a conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)—Determination Whether to Initiate Litigation.

The Board convened a closed session at 6:48 p.m.

The Board returned from closed session at 7:09 p.m. The Deputy General Counsel announced that the Board had met in closed session, gave direction to staff, and did not take any reportable action.

It was moved by Member Villarreal, seconded by Member Hurtado, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary

