

**MINUTES OF THE 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  
May 4, 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 Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy, City of Avalon  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens  
Member George Ray, City of Cerritos  
Member Ivan Altamirano, City of Commerce  
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton  
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy  
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey  
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
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 Joe Angel Zamora, 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 KeAndra Dodds, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis  
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach

**ABSENT:** President Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry  
Member Ricardo Villarreal, City of Maywood  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member from the City of Whittier  
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Huntington Park Council Member Karina Macias; Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Diana Tang; Pico Rivera Director of Public Works James Enriquez; Vernon Director of Public Works Derek Wieske; Steve Forster, City Engineering Manager, Cities of Bell Gardens and Montebello; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Tomasz Babiskiewicz, Associate Director of Outreach, PATH; Bill Allen, Executive Director, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation; Barbara Levine, Senior Regional Manager, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation; Grace Kast, Executive Director, Gateway Water Management Authority; Dan Knapp, Executive Director, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Tara Cannon, Special Projects Coordinator, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Joe Eyn, Account Coordinator, Cerrell Associates; Grace Weltman, Director of Policy and Planning, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; Kimberly Barnette, SPA 7 Regional Coordinator, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer and I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; GCCOG Consulting Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by First Vice 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 Dunton, seconded by Member Davis, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously, with Member Egoscue abstaining.

Grace Weltman, Director of Policy and Planning and Programming, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2016 Homeless Count results and the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. She said the count presents a snapshot of the county's homeless population on one day. The key questions relate to how many people experience homelessness on a given night; what their demographic characteristics are; how are they distributed across the county; and where are they staying.

Ms. Weltman reported the total count of the number of people experiencing homelessness was 46,874, an increase of 5.7% over the 2015 count. Of this total, 12,347 were sheltered and 34,527 were unsheltered. Despite these numbers, there had been a

30% reduction in the homeless rate among veterans and an 18% decrease in homeless family members.

Ms. Weltman reviewed the various demographic characteristics of the homeless and pointed out that 70% of the homeless in Los Angeles County were last stably housed in the county. She said only 17% were from out of state. Among impacting factors, she said there is a continuing housing affordability crisis. She referred the Board to the County's recently launched phase one of Homeless Initiative.

Member Sziebl asked if there would be a phase two to the County's initiative. Ms. Weltman responded that the goal is to develop strategies by June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year and to have the implementation of the program in effect by June 30, 2017.

Member Sziebl asked about the plan for cities that do not use the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Weltman said the County is investing \$100 million in one-time money to get these strategies going, with the idea that, once the framework is in place, we will reach out to the independent cities.

Member Sziebl said the County and the cities should develop a team of first responders to go up and down the Los Angeles River to clean out encampments.

Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan said he didn't know how well this strategy calling on cities to make contributions is based in reality. He said that amount requested from his city is \$1.3 million, which is just not there. Ms. Weltman said the details still need to be worked out. Cities will not be left out. So far, only eight cities have indicated a desire to contribute.

Member Ray said that until we address the issue of mental illness and addiction this problem will not go away. With the loss of redevelopment, he said, cities don't have the money to build low and moderate income housing.

Member Dodds said the County is working on contributing more of the money that has come as a result of the dissolution of redevelopment agencies to the homeless program.

First Vice President Austin said his city already contributes heavily to programs for the homeless. Ms. Weltman said she is aware of the very successful Gateway Cities program.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, seconded by Member Mendez, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Allen, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, addressed the Board on the recently completed 2016-2020 Los Angeles County Strategic Plan for Economic Development. He said the new plan attempts to deal with issues that the previous plan did not, including poverty, growing economic inequality, and the lack of affordable housing.

Mr. Allen said part one of the plan talks about the accelerated change in our economy from manufacturing/production to information technology. He said education must focus on this. He said part two identifies ten industry clusters that give us our best opportunity to create well-paying jobs. Innovation and entrepreneurship must be supported, he said. Additionally, infrastructure needs to be improved or replaced.

Mr. Allen said it was made loud and clear at the many outreach sessions that we need to be more business friendly. He offered to come out and speak at those cities that wished to have a presentation.

Member Ray said Los Angeles County is business friendly; the real problem is at the state level. In particular, the cost of regulation is forcing small businesses to swim upstream. Mr. Allen responded that he heard this at all of their sessions. He encouraged board members to explain the importance of small businesses to our state legislators.

Member Alatorre said one thing the County needs to keep in mind is that the burden of being business friendly does not negatively impact the health of our communities. Mr. Allen said those values are articulated in their plan.

Member DeWitt said the entertainment studios are a real bright spot in the economy.

Member Egoscue requested that Mr. Allen make a presentation to the Port of Long Beach.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Joe Eyen, Account Executive for Cerrell Associates, addressed the Board regarding a potential county parks funding measure. He said Proposition A, which was approved by the voters in 1992, expired last year. "Baby A", passed in 1996 will expire in 2019, he said. He said the County has undergone an extensive needs assessment in preparation for a potential tax measure to replace these funding sources. He said the failure of Proposition B in 2014 was due to the process not adequately assessing the County's needs.

President Saleh arrived at the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Eyen said polling showed a range of two-thirds to 70% approval of a potential park funding measure.

First Vice President Austin asked if cities would be able to prioritize how their funds are used. Mr. Eyen responded that they would and may apply for projects that are not on a submitted list.

It was moved by Member Aceituno, seconded by Member Altamirano, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dan Knapp, Executive Director of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Conservation Corps and the Gateway Cities Charter School. He reviewed the history of the Corps, which was established in 1987, and the Charter School, established in 2013. He said the Corps serves by having youth participate in one or more of the following programs: conservation programs; education programs; and support services and gave examples of the activities under each of these. He said the goals of the Corps include increasing the partnerships in the communities; building strong ties with the cities, especially with the public works and parks and recreation departments; and developing tangible and meaningful projects.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, seconded by Immediate Past President Tercero, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that the seats of two elected official members of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council, Gene Daniels and Al Austin, would be expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said three self-nominations had been received from Huntington Park Council Member Karina Macias, Artesia Council Member Ali Taj, and incumbent Gene Daniels. He said incumbent Al Austin is not seeking re-appointment.

Huntington Park Council Member Karina Macias was invited to address the Board regarding her interest in serving on the Service Sector Council. Council Member Macias said there has never been a member of the Council from Huntington Park, that she has served on the Eco Rapid Transit Board, and is very interested in transportation issues.

Candidates Gene Daniels and Ali Taj were not present at the meeting.

First Vice President Austin asked for a show of hands from the Board members as to which candidates they supported and reminded that they may vote for no more than two. At the conclusion of the vote, it was announced that Paramount Council Member Gene Daniels and Huntington Park Council Member Karina Macias had received 22 and 21 votes to 5 for Artesia Council Member Ali Taj and that the nominations of Gene Daniels and Karina Macias would be forwarded to the MTA Board of Directors for appointment.

Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan presented a recommendation from the City Managers Steering Committee that a letter signed by as many of the COG's mayors be sent to Caltrans stating their concerns about the inadequate maintenance and unsightly conditions at freeway on and off ramp locations.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Mendez, to direct that the recommended letter be sent to Caltrans stating the concerns about the condition of freeway on and off ramps. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said the Conservancy Board had heard a presentation by the Watershed Conservation Authority regarding the development of the Gateway Cities Urban Greening Plan. He said a total

of 42 grant applications had been received by the Conservancy for projects funded through Proposition 1 and that staff would be making recommendations to the Board on which projects to fund.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee and the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the I-710 team is trying to expedite early action projects from the Measure R second decade that don't require environmental clearance. He said the I-710 Aesthetics Committee has been meeting regarding the treatment for sound walls and the character of the freeway. He said the revised I-710 Draft EIR/EIS is anticipated to be released in early 2017. Mr. Anderson said the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee had advanced "hot spots" projects recommended for funding by the Technical Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Member Altamirano, seconded by Member Marquez, to receive and file the reports from the Conservancy Committee and the two freeway corridor committees. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She presented the position paper approved by the Transportation Committee regarding the proposed MTA sales tax ballot measure. She said the Transportation Committee's position is that Measure R project obligations receive funding priority under the proposed ballot measure; Measure R projects should not be subjected to the performance metrics; local return should be set at 25%; the 2% Active Transportation/First Last Mile/Complete Streets allocation should include storm water treatment eligibility. She reviewed areas of agreement with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Mendez, to approve the position paper recommended by the Transportation Committee.

Member Altamirano offered two friendly amendments regarding the Measure R projects. He said the words "inclusive of the I-5 project (I-605 to I-710)" should be inserted in the language regarding Measure R projects not being subjected to the performance metrics, and that language be added to the highway projects section related to I-5 to ask COG staff to work with the cities of the I-5 Consortium to establish an accelerated construction date which is realistic and achievable. Members DuBois and Mendez accepted the amendments. The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

Member Marquez said he would like to make sure that the Board receives an update from MTA at the next meeting regarding the proposed ballot measure.

Tomasz Babiskiewicz presented a report from PATH. He referred the Board to a handout containing the numbers from the 2015 homeless count and the March outreach statistics. He reported that within the past two months PATH has hired a housing specialist and retention case manager.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, seconded by Member Dunton, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Committee on Sustainability.

Grace Kast, Executive Director, Gateway Water Management Authority, gave a PowerPoint presentation which briefly summarized the background and activities of the Authority. She said the Authority is able to organize and coordinate economical and efficient water management activities across city boundaries. She summarized the past regional projects assisted by the Authority and highlighted the fact that \$9,764,000 in state and federal grants have been achieved since 2012.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She said a major construction milestone had been achieved with the bid opening for the Valley View project. That \$140 million project should be under construction by the end of the year. She thanked the Board for its action to urge MTA to move up the timetable for the I-5 project from I-605 to I-710 in the proposed ballot measure. She said she is working on repurposing an unused federal earmark to be used by Caltrans towards the I-5 next phase EIR.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

There was no report from Eco-Rapid Transit.

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

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. He said telephone conferences regarding the proposed MTA sales tax measure give people the opportunity to call in regarding their thoughts on the spending plan. He said there would be a meeting held tomorrow night at this facility.

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

Member Dunton pointed out the need to enforce the time limit on speakers to keep these meetings from extending on too long.

Member Uranga congratulated First Vice President Austin on his recent re-election to the Long Beach City Council.

There were no matters from the President.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Member Aceituno to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.