

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CTITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
Chair - MTA Director, Long Beach Mayor - Robert Garcia**

Gateway Cities COG Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723  
May 1, 2019

The Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm, roll call was taken by self-introduction:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Garcia – Mayor City of Long Beach, COG President Fernando Dutra, Diane DuBois – City of Lakewood, Debra Johnson – Long Beach Transit, Jeff Collier – City Manager – City of Whittier, Young-Gi Harabedian – Supervisor Hahn’s Office, Kevin Jackson – City of Long Beach, and Bianca Villanueva – Port of Long Beach.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sharon Weissman,– Metro Transportation Deputy, Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit - GCCOG staff, Julia Brown, - Community Relations Manager, Shrota Sharma – Sr. Transp. Planner, Transp. Assoc., Celine Chen – Metro, Theresa Dau-Ngo, Mgr. Transp Dev.- Port of Long Beach, Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Mgr. – League of California Cities, Michael Kodama, Executive Director – Eco-Rapid Transit Joint Powers Authority

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

Roll was taken by Self-Introduction

Quorum was achieved at 4:30 pm.

Mayor Garcia began the meeting by introducing Shrota Sharma who reviewed the Arterial Performance Measurement Pilot, known as “Measure Up” that promotes arterial analysis. This is a pilot that allows cities to monitor arterial performance through a program called iPeMS. Unlike the past, this new program has real time data available. Metro’s consultant gave a live demonstration on how this program works with an example that included historic data. The tool allows the city to define a route and gather historic and current data on that route. Data is coded by color and can pinpoint incidents that occur. The tool is available to all cities.

Karen Heit gave an explanation of the comments submitted by the COG for the Administrative Guidelines for the Measure M Active Transportation 2% fund. She indicated that the funds would be distributed based upon a project’s inclusion into either the First/Last Mile Strategic Plan or the Active Transportation Strategic Plan. Both plans designate stations and regionally significant bicycle routes that will be eligible for funding. There is an expectation that project lists and a call for funding may be distributed in June. Heit indicated that the COG’s comments asked how Complete Streets items and structural improvements would fit into this funding.

Michael Turner, gave a presentation on the state funding and legislation particularly SB-1. There are issues developing between northern and southern California over active Transportation and funding. Currently, the rules favor funding projects in disadvantaged communities impacted by air pollution. Cities with these conditions are prevalent in southern California. The highest pollution is along the I-710 Corridor to the detriment of southern California. Senator Beall introduced a bill to lower the allocation of funding to the local level (SCAG). The new formula suggested under SB-152 favors population and is not concentrated on disadvantaged communities and those with poor air quality.

The SB1 local partnership program allocates discretionary funding to self –help counties. Riverside and San Bernardino County want funding distributed by non-tax, no bill has been introduced.

He went on to explain two broad policy issues that are at play in the state. CARB put out a report based on the results of SB 375. One of the solutions is to reprioritize local sales tax projects to better achieve sustainability. He reviewed the specter of SB-50 and how it may impact transit service which needs to remain fluid for the MTA. He also spoke about the McCarty Bill to incentivize cities to increase housing and level subventions if there is non-compliance. This will come in with the budget trailer bill.

Lastly, Turner referenced the potential federal Infrastructure Bill. The MTA has submitted a program for improvements including a reference to Projects of National Significance. MTA supports federal gas tax increases. Mayor Garcia called for questions. Norm Emerson asked about the Allen Bill being withdrawn and continued by the legislature. Turner answered that the Cap & Trade piece and the issue of MTA trying to fund the electric bus conversion before the state mandated deadline. AQMD through the Allan Bill is seeking the ability to place a sales tax measure on the ballot. This ballot item would only require a simple majority not a 2/3rds.

Ayda Safaei Metro Community Relations Mgr., presented on the “New Blue” improvement project. She began with a high level overview of the New Blue project. She indicated that most of the work is not visible but is renovating all major Blue Line systems. The noticeable improvements are renovated stations and the introduction of digital displays.

The line has been closed from downtown Long Beach to the Watts Tower station. She discussed the work being done on the Rosa Parks/Willowbrook station and plaza. She went through a set of slides that highlighted the improvements. She indicated that the northern segment work will close the line from Rosa Parks/Willowbrook to downtown Los Angeles for approximately 8 months, a bus bridge will be initiated to allow for service continuity. The Expo/Blue Line interface will close two Expo Stations for two months. She reviewed the bus service that will replace this stoppage.

Lastly, she communicated where to get the information on the remainder of the “New Blue” work. COG Exec. Dir. Nancy Pfeffer asked if there will be next train indicator on the new displays. They are working on it but it is difficult. Deborah Johnson asked about the

time savings for the prioritization for the Expo and Blue Line and the stop and go that occur with the interlink before the trains enter the Metro Center tunnel.

Mayor Garcia gave a report on the NextGen Bus study and what it entails. He mentioned that the Municipal Operators are also reviewing their service for improvements and integration. He mentioned that there needs to be an expansion of the bike share program and there is an effort to expand the TAP card to allow for the utilization of the TAP card with bike share and to create a digital TAP card. The Mayor went on to talk about the MTA releasing the consultant contract for the WSAB financial modelling. President Dutra asked about local presentations to cities, Mayor Garcia said this can occur. Mayor Garcia asked Deborah Johnson about Long Beach Transit STAR program and she gave an overview of the timeline for results of the service. She said the Long Beach Transit process is awaiting data and analysis from MTA to finish their mid-term and long-term plans. Mayor Garcia asked if the MTA could interact more directly with the affected cities. Whittier has issues with bus service being removed and not returned. Mayor Garcia wants more interaction meeting with cities and operators. Julia Brown has quarterly meetings with service operators on service changes. Mayor Garcia suggested a summit on city elected officials to draw the circle around changes and NextGen. Johnson asked if Los Angeles County Municipal Operators Association could be invited as well to any summit.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03.