

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Chair – MTA Director Diane DuBois

Gateway Cities COG Office, 16401 Paramount Boulevard, Paramount, CA 90723

November 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m. Roll call was taken by self-introductions.

COG Members Present: Diane DuBois – MTA Director – City of Lakewood, Owen Newcomer – City of Whittier, Cinde Cassidy – City of Avalon, Gene Daniels – Supervisor Knabe – City of Paramount, KeAndra Dodds – Supervisor Solis, Dana Pynn – Long Beach Transit, Jose Pulido – City Manager – City of Cudahy, Bill Pagett – City Engineer – City of Paramount, Mohammad Mosahkami – Public Works Director – City of Downey.

COG Members Absent: Ali Saleh – COG President, City of Bell, Al Austin – COG 1st Vice President, City of Long Beach, Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood, Mike Egan – City Manager, City of Norwalk, Arturo Sanchez, City of Long Beach.

Others Present: Kekoa Anderson, Yvette Kirrin, Jack Joseph – Gateway Cities COG staff, Lara Laramendi – Congressmember Hahn, David Hershenson – MTA, Michael Kodama – Eco Rapid Transit, Norm Emerson.

Director DuBois recommended changing the starting time of the Transportation Committee meetings to 4:30 p.m. in order to better assure that a quorum is present at the start of the meeting. She said if more time is needed for any particular meetings they could be held beginning at 4:00 as special meetings. It was the consensus of the Transportation Committee to approve this change beginning with the January 2016 meeting of the Committee.

Lara Laramendi reported on the status of transportation funding in Congress and referred the Committee to two amendments offered by Congress member Hahn to the highway bill: one to allow federal freight funding to go to roads connecting ports to major highways, and one to allow more young people to receive job training in the transportation industry.

It was moved by Owen Newcomer, seconded by Bill Pagett, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

MTA Director Diane DuBois gave as recap of the October Metro Board Meeting. She announced that MTA received Cap and Trade money as well as a state Active Transportation Grant to fill out the funding plan for the redevelopment of the Rosa Parks/Green and Blue Line station. This funding will be used to make the station area better lit more active and allow for a greater police presence. The total project value is

almost \$67 million most of it grant money from various sources. MTA awarded a design contact at the October meeting

She went on to discuss the award of Low-Carbon fuel credits in the amount of \$28 million to the MTA. The Board approved using the finding for operations for the Foothill Extension and Expo Phase II.

Lastly she reported on the approval of the contract modification to the I-710 environmental consultant contract to get the document through the recirculation next year. Supervisor Hilda Solis negotiated a set of inclusions, changes, and parallel studies to the project that go a long way towards meeting the elements of CA-7. The Board report and the Solis Motion are attached under Communications. Director DuBois acknowledged the important role Supervisor Solis played in keeping the project on track.

Director DuBois reported on the draft potential ballot measure that would increase the countywide sales tax to further transportation project implementation. She said the outreach to subregions by MTA staff resulted in over 2,300 projects totaling over \$273 billion. Gateway Cities submitted a project slate of \$23 billion. Director DuBois commented that there would not be enough money to fund everything. In addition, MTA created a regional facilities category which includes the San Pedro Bay ports, Los Angeles County airports, and Los Angeles Union Station, but does not include freeways as regional facilities.

Director DuBois said she would like to schedule a study session on the potential ballot measure and reminded the Committee that the COG's previous action was to affirm that Measure R projects be completed first. She referred the Committee to three questions that she recommended be answered before the COG considers supporting a new tax measure: how does MTA intend to address completing the Measure R commitments through the new tax revenue and the allocation of other transportation funds; how does not specifically mentioning traffic congestion benefit or support a new sales tax initiative; and how will MTA address transportation issues in areas where the need far outweighs the local determinants (population, jobs)?

Mohammad Mostahkami recommended that an additional criterion be that there is a local return of 25% from the new tax measure.

KeAndra Dodds said the report did not include active transportation. Director DuBois said it should be included as a priority project.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Gene Daniels, to recommend that the Board of Directors ask the three questions recommended in the report, recommend a minimum of a 25% local return in the new tax measure, and include active transportation as a priority project in the Gateway Cities region. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin provided a brief update regarding the Strategic Transportation Plan and the current activities. She noted that as of October 30 that all technical presentations, including all modes of transportation, had been presented with the exception of air quality, which would be presented in November. She noted that the STP Oversight Committee had convened earlier that day, summarizing the major topics, including the final approval process and how to maintain the STP as a living document as the project/contract closes out.

Dave Hershenson, Metro Service Council Manager, reported that there is a vacancy on the Service Council as the result of a resignation. He reported that he had briefed the deputies of MTA directors Solis, Knabe, and DuBois on the Metro Gold Line Phase II project. He said the SR-60 route coalition is focusing on the environmental issues raised by that alignment and that the Washington Blvd. coalition is tasked with finding a new north-south route to substitute for Garfield Ave. said this study is supported by Supervisor Knabe, who has offered to fully fund the cost of the consultant study. He said the recommendation was to authorize the Executive Director to work with Supervisor Knabe on the selection and retention of a consultant.

Jack Joseph referred the Committee to a summary report from Nancy Pfeffer on the Committee on Sustainability. Gene Daniels said that COG staff had submitted written comments to the Strategic Growth Council on the updated guidelines for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program. Norm Emerson said the legislature has yet to appropriate up to \$1.5 billion in Cap and Trade funds and that key legislators would be Speaker Anthony Rendon and Senate Majority Leader Kevin DeLeon, both of whom represent Gateway Cities.

Yvette Kirrin reported that all five funded segments of the I-5 project are ahead of schedule for construction and that the JPA is currently working with Caltrans to develop a scope of work for the gap from I-605 north to I-710.

Yvette Kirrin provided a brief update regarding the I-710 project, noting that many meetings took place during October, including the Technical Advisory Committee, Corridor Advisory Committee, and Project Committee. She noted they were positive meetings, specifically due to the positive momentum with regard to Supervisor Solis' motion which appears to have bridged the gap of trust between the environmental community and the project, including Caltrans and Metro. She said this is in concert with the I-710 Livability Initiative and I-710 EIR/EIS all forming a holistic project moving forward together.

Yvette Kirrin provided a brief update on the SR-91/I-605/I-405 project, noting that a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee took place during the month of October and would take place again in November. It was also noted that several contracts were awarded at MTA with regard to interchanges throughout the Gateway Cities.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Gene Daniels, to receive and file the freeway project reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco Rapid Transit, reported that a Transportation Summit is scheduled for November 18 in the City of Artesia. He also reported that he is working with Metro on a scope of work for the environmental study for the Eco Rapid Transit project.

Mohammad Mostahkami thanked Director DuBois for raising the issue of the homeless encampments underneath overpasses and in the river beds at the last COG Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.