MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Chair - MTA Director Diane DuBois

Gateway Cities COG Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723

June 27, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: MTA Director Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane DuBois – MTA Director, COG Board President Ray Dunton – Bellflower, Bruce Barrows – Cerritos, Cheri Kelley – Norwalk, Gene Daniels – Paramount, Ron Bates – Pico Rivera, Bill Pagett - Paramount, Mohammad Mostahkami – South Gate, Dana Lee – Long Beach Transit, Bill Pagett – City of Paramount, Tom Modica - Long Beach, Tony Lima – Artesia,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Port of Long Beach Representative – Eric Shen, Bruce Barrows – Cerritos,

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Powers, Jerry Wood, Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit – COG staff, David Hershenson – MTA. Wally Shidler – Gateway Cities Service Sector,

Councilman Gene Daniels called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Transportation Deputy Karen Heit explained the nuances of the objectionable language for the prioritization of bond proceeds. There was a discussion about a tax sunset and the obligation of 60 years worth of tax revenues to pay for current projects. Director DuBois explained that she would be pushing for a 30-year sunset and placing the Extension proposal before the voters. The report was received and filed.

Heit introduced Miriam Long, Communications Manager MTA, who explained the MTA Construction Careers Academy (CCA). Ms. Long began with an explanation of the Project Labor Agreement – the first in the nation for federally funded projects. She went to explain the CCA and how it related to the federal funding. She emphasized that there must be a percentage of hours held for the disadvantaged potential employee. The program includes returning vets. 20% of 40% of the workers must be people who have undergone a qualified apprentice program. There is no local jobs component as the federal government does not allow this and extends eligibility nationwide.

Ms. Long discussed that all eligible potential employees must got through apprenticeship programs. She gave a hotline number and referred to the MTA website.
Ron Bates questions the use of 40% of the hours going to inexperienced workers and how it might impact the quality of the work. Questions were asked about how to deal with the requirement for educating the construction entities.

Jerry Wood, COG Transportation Engineer, gave a little background about the “tale of two counties” and discussed the I-5 situation during the Orange County development of the I-5 project. He discussed the LA County I-5. He discussed the previous failure of the MTA to pay attention to highway projects and inter-county coordination. He reviewed the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 projects and their progress highlighting the coordination efforts.

He reviewed the information made available from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 study and given to OCTA for use. The information included modeling, traffic studies and other data. He reviewed the OCTA participation in the SR-91/I-605/I-405 project at the GCCOG’s information. He went over the MTA/OCTA Inter-county Study and the findings. Wood discussed the lack of coordination between Caltrans Districts 7 and 12. There is no environmental analysis done in Long Beach or any other impacts in LA County. Wood said the provided information has been ignored especially potential mitigations and analysis of impacts.

He recommended sending the draft letter included in the agenda on to the Board for execution and submitted to Caltrans District 12. Tom Modica, City of Long Beach, further elaborated on the lack of analysis of impacts in Long Beach. He also cited that the DEIR/DEIS is deficient and that the city would be sending a similar letter. Wood suggested that MTA and OCTA Directors bring the two Caltrans Districts together to address the problem. Mohammad Mostakhami recommended sending the letter to Caltrans headquarters for action. Ron Bates suggested sending the letter to Hassan Ikharta at SCAG and to also schedule a meeting with the two Caltrans district offices to discuss the issue. A Motion was made and passed to send the letter out and schedule a meeting before the comment period ends.

Karen Heit gave an overview of the PEROW/WSAB Alternatives Analysis and the Steering Committees’ recommendations and talked about the changes made by the Steering Committee. The study will be received by SCAG and sent on to both Transportation Commissions for the next steps.

David Hershenson discussed the milestones of the opening of the Venice/Robertson and Farmdale stations on the Expo line and the upcoming opening of the Orangeline Canoga Extension in the SFV.

Yvette Kirrin, I-5 JPA Executive Director, passed out a closures and detour map associated with the I-5 that she will bring every month. She asked the Transportation Committee if they want to see this at the Transportation Committee or the COG Board. Ray Dunton, COG President, suggested passing this information out at the COG Board in addition to the Transportation Committee.
Jerry Wood announced that the I-710 DEIR/DEIS is officially out for review by the public. He announced the official public hearings were scheduled in August and the community informational meetings that the COG will schedule. He moved into the status of the SR-91/I-605/I-405 and the result of the studies that have been done.

Wood also discussed the status of the AQAP and how much better air quality will be from the implementation of the project including the benefits from the health risk reductions associated with the I-710 project. He also talked about the ITS progress and the zero-emission potential for the I-710 corridor.

A Motion was made to receive and file Items C,D,E and F.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.