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
May 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.


COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Daniels – Paramount, James Johnson – Long Beach, Michael Ponce – Avalon, Bruce Barrows – Cerritos, Bill Pagett – Paramount,


April minutes were pulled for reconsideration next month.

Director DuBois presented the MTA Board Recap. A few highlights that were discussed were the following: the successful 75th Anniversary of Union Station event held on May 3rd, the approval of the First/Last Mile Strategic Plan, and the approval for the continuation of the Expresslanes pilot program. There was discussion about Call for Projects process and funding sources for the upcoming Call between Committee members.

Stacy Alameida from Metro presented the Draft Short Range Transportation Plan, currently out for public review. The Draft Plan identifies the short-term challenges, provides an analysis of financial resources, proposes action plans for public transportation and highway modes, and includes other project and program initiatives for the MTA. In addition, it addresses sustainability, future funding strategies, and lastly, measures the Draft Plan's performance. There was discussion about funding allocation and job creation to and within the Gateway Cities. There was also discussion about many of the I-605 hot spot projects. The COG will be submitting a letter with the COGs comments that will be coming to the Board in June. There was discussion about the lack and future of light rail and major transportation projects within the Gateway Cities.
The Committee also inquired about and discussed project acceleration and the potential for this in the Gateway Cities. There was a motion made and passed to receive and file.

Annette Albarran from Metro presented the Countywide Bus Rapid Transit and Street Design Study. This is a Metro Board approved study that looks into potential for bus rapid transit lines in various high transit-use corridors throughout the county. This study took a countywide system approach and looked at existing transportation corridors where an existing gap within the system could be filled or enhanced. There was discussion about how funding would be used if funding is approved through the FY15 budget. The Committee inquired about how the projects in each of the different phases were chosen. The Committee discussed maintenance and upkeep of bus stops and how cities can get financial help for these efforts from Metro or other funding sources. There was a motion made and passed to receive and file.

Karen Heit, transportation deputy, discussed the potential for the COG to support Senator Lara’s SB 1204 on clean and zero-emission vehicles. The bill will focus on zero emission technology in disadvantaged communities. COG staff recommended sending a support letter to Senator Lara. There was discussion about the possible future of Cap and Trade funding and how it could potentially be allocated. There was a motion made and passed to approve the staff recommendation.

Chelsea Simandle discussed the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The MTA Board of Directors took an action on April 24 that directed staff to assign ten points to all Los Angeles County projects applying for this funding that fall in line with regional or local transportation plans. This gives all projects within Los Angeles County an equal opportunity to compete for ATP funding on a regional level. There was additional discussion about the assignment of how the ten points will be awarded. There was a motion made and passed to receive and file.

Director DuBois discussed the Gateway Cities service council recommendation to fill one vacancy on the Council’s Board. Between March and April, extensive outreach was done looking for a community member to fill a recently vacant position. One application was received from Cynde Soto. Therefore, a recommendation was made to the Committee to reappoint Ms. Soto to the service council. There was a motion made and passed to approve the recommendation and forward it to COG Board.

David Hershenson updated the committee on the Gateway Cities Service Council activities. He discussed various briefings and outreach that are being conducted throughout the region. The committee discussed two other vacancies that are on the service council.

Karen Heit discussed LOSSAN, The managing entity, OCTA is negotiating the transfer of the Amtrak Surfliner from Amtrak to the LOSSAN JPA. This project is important to the Gateway Cities as it takes pressure off the I-5.
Heit discussed the I-710 Project and the anticipated vetting of the recommended Alternatives to be presented to the Project Committee at the end of May. Heit went on to discuss the I-5 Corridor Project and the upcoming commencement of the construction on the Shoemaker Bridge and the Florence closure.

Mike Kodama, Eco-Rapid Transit Executive Director, updated the committee on Eco-Rapid Transit. There was discussion about the application of various components of the project to the Gold Line Eastside Extension project.

There was a motion made and approved to receive and file and/or to approve items A, B, C, D, E, F.

There was discussion about funding, maintenance, and upkeep of bus stops throughout the Gateway Cities during “Matters from Transportation Committee Members”. Discussion included how to make maintenance and operation part of projects when they are constructed to take pressure off of cities to maintain bus stops. The committee wants to see this issue brought up to the MTA to see if there is funding for shelters and benches.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38