

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

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

October 2, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Daniels – Paramount, Diane DuBois – MTA Chair, Ron Bates – Pico Rivera, Mohammad Mostahkami – South Gate, Tony Lima – Artesia, Bill Pagett – Paramount, Bruce Barrows – Cerritos, Ken Farfsing – Signal Hill, Dana Pynn – Long Beach Transit, Julie Moore – Don Knabe Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Modica– City of Long Beach

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendy Rozek – Boca Raton FL, Jerry Wood – GCCOG, Michael Kodama – Eco-Rapid Transit, Yvette Kirrin – I-5 JPA, Wally Shidler – MTA, David Hershenson – MTA, Niki Tennant – Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal’s Office, Norman Emerson – Emerson and Associates, Vin Kumar – Caltrans, Lance Grindle – LA County Public Works, Maryann Adhami – LA County Public Works, Diana Tang – City of Long Beach, Andres Molina – Parsons Brinkerhoff

Metro Chair DuBois presented a recap of last month’s MTA Board proceedings. She described the conduct of the meeting under a trial of new public comment rules. The September MTA Board Meeting was considerably shorter. She additionally touched on the approval of the 2013 Call for Projects, as well as an increase in the Life of Project budget for the Metro Blue line that will allow for turnout rehabilitation; and a development agreement between MTA and the city of Downey for the installation of outdoor electronic advertising signs on MTA property.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy, discussed the transportation priority list. In June Michael Antonovich asked LA County subregions to submit lists of potential projects for a possible ground-up sales tax initiative. During an LA County Mayors’ summit hosted by LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, it was revealed that the individual cities wished to be consulted as well. Chair DuBois send out a new letter to individual cities and mayors. Fortunately, the Gateway COG has gotten a head start on creating a list because of the Strategic Transportation Plan. The letter was intended to get a better idea of Countywide need. The GCCOG list to be turned in on Friday is a preliminary step, to a possible 2016 ballot measure. The total cost of the projects on the Gateway Transportation Priority List ranges from \$27 billion on the low side to \$45 billion on the

high side. These amounts are reflective of the need expressed by other subregions. Dana Pynn expressed concern about a lack of request for funding for buses and transit facilities, and that it would be nice to include something for alternative bus services. This kind of input is required to encapsulate need. Bill Pagett expressed concern about including super localized street projects. Heit explained that the time frame for cities to submit such lists was too short at this time and that there would be a follow up letter sent out asking cities for more specific information. Ken Farfsing asked that any follow-up information or letters also be copied to city managers as well as city mayors. This Gateway Cities Transportation List combined with the public works list was approved to be submitted with recommendation to the full COG board for their approval.

Diane DuBois discussed the PEPRA/13(c) conflict. SB1222 passed that provides for federal law to supersede state when grant funds are involved. The Bill is awaiting the Governor's signature. Gene Daniels inquired when we could potentially lose federal funds. Director DuBois responded that the federal funding anticipated in in November and February for the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway projects was at risk. Director DuBois then thanked all of the legislators, elected officials, and staff that assisted with the resolution.

Heit discussed the California Freight Advisory Committee (CFAC) process. The MTA is focusing on reauthorizing projects of regional and national significance for future funding. The maps depicting freight within the CA State Freight plan need to be revised to reflect the intensity of freight movement from the San Pedro Bay Ports. Mohammad Mostahkami inquired about the source for the data on truck volumes. Ron Bates and Gene Daniels discussed the dire status of congestion and truck traffic on the I-605. Heit explained how these maps really do portray this situation.

Avital Shavit, Metro program Manager gave a presentation about the Open Streets Program. This program would provide funding to cities within Los Angeles County to develop Ciclovía events that support and promote active transportation. It would be a competitive process where cities would submit applications showing their plans for the events, active transportation networks and infrastructure that would be used, topography, etc and cities with the best proposals would be awarded funding.

Mohammad Mostahkami discussed concerns and comments that were made at the TAC when this same presentation was given to its constituents. A main concern that was expressed was that there should be a cap in funding awarded per application so that one city does not take all of the money. He also inquired about the grant application screening process. Shavit responded that they did not want to place a cap because every city will be very different and they want to evaluate each project on its own merit and allow for the most successful events to come out of this process as possible. In term of evaluating the applications, MTA staff and the MTA board would be evaluating the applications. Laura Cornejo added that process for reviewing applications will be very similar to CFP. Ken Farfsing stated that for the cities' purposes, the schedule may be a little aggressive. This is something that cities have to budget and therefore should coincide appropriately with fiscal years that, in general,

begin in July. Director DuBois agreed and stated that a lot of cities will struggle to find the match money, especially the smaller cities. Shavit explained that cities would get up to 2 years to spend the funds once they are awarded, so they could plan for and implement the events in different fiscal years. Bill Pagett stated that it would be very similar to a city putting on a street fair and street fair data and statistics could be very helpful in planning for an event like this. Farfaring recommended that the application deadline should be in August. Mostahkami expressed concerns about consistency and continuity of these events for following years. He stated that it could become problematic if one year a city was awarding funding for an Open Streets event and the next year they were not. After continued extensive discussion about the application deadline and a cap, a motion was made to recommend to the MTA that there be a cap of \$300,000 per application and that the deadline for applications to be submitted be changed to August 2014.

Director DuBois discussed freeway maintenance and beautification. There has already been a significant amount of debris and graffiti removed from freeways throughout LA County via this program. The program is helping with sustainability because low maintenance and drought resistant plants are being planted along freeway. Ken Farfaring stated that he has noticed a remarkable change. DuBois stated that the freeways are the gateways to the region and it is important that they are taken care of.

Diane DuBois discussed the Metro Blue Line Rehabilitation project that will start this month where Metro will be spending millions to rehab the area, replacing centenary wire, and maintenance that will improve safety and speed and functionality of the trains. Dana Pynn from Long Beach Transit expressed concern about the aesthetics of the safety signage. Committee members thanked DuBois and Karen Heit for the attendance to the service council meeting this month as it was the first time in ten years that the chair has met with the service council.

Diane DuBois updated the committee on LOSSAN. There were three proposals submitted by three different agencies, MTA, OCTA, and MTS for managing agency. The cost in Metro's proposal for services was significantly higher than other agencies as a complete marketing program and other activities were included that the others did not. Ultimately the lowest priced proposal from OCTA was chosen:

Jerry Wood, Transportation engineer gave an update on the Strategic Transportation Plan (STP). The STP is starting to generate a lot of reports such as active transportation, storm water, park and ride etc. The STP should be completed next spring. Wood discussed the models that are involved with the STP and the idea of this process being bottoms-up. There was discussion with the board about local agencies being able to provide input into the STP.

Yvette Kirrin discussed the I-5 project. Many of the sections of the project are making significant headway towards completion. A major issue has been construction impacts like congestion and pollution. Ron Bates inquired about the reopening of Coyote Creek bike lanes.

Jerry Wood presented an update on the I-710 project. The biggest issue now is the new traffic model that is being redone with results beginning to come forth. Initial modeling runs produced significantly different results and data than the current model and these new results will force reconsideration of project features and design. I-710 Project Committee and PAC meetings will most likely be cancelled this month. There were more focused meetings with various constituents to flesh out the components of CA-7. Next month should produce some results with the traffic modeling. Ron Bates expressed his positive experiences with the SCAG traffic model.

Wood then discussed the I-405/SR-91/I-605 project. The next phase includes a feasibility study and traffic modeling. COG staff will continue to coordinate with OCTA for inter-county planning. There will be a recommendation forthcoming to look at getting environmental clearance for the whole area and not just at the interchanges.

Mike Kodama discussed the Eco Rapid Transit project. Metro is expected to keep moving forward on the alternative analysis. The consultant contract should be approved by the MTA Board in January 2014. Cal poly Pomona has asked to look at ERT as their study.

Director Dubois reported on the Call for Projects. Gateway COG did extremely well in this Call for Projects. Gateway Cities' applicants were awarded 22 contracts totaling over \$54 million.

Heit discussed the Metro billboard project in Downey. The billboard is located on Telegraph and Slauson. Metro gets a share of revenue and Downey gets a share.

Mohammad Mostahkami reported on matters from the committee. Issues that the region is having with the railroads were discussed along with potential strategies to remedy these issues. Ultimately it was decided that a letter would be sent to each of the railroads to discuss all of the Gateway Cities concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm