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
July 6, 2016

The Meeting called to order at 4:30 Role call taken by self-introduction

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:  Al Austin – City of Long Beach, , Gene Daniels – City of Paramount, Supervisor Knabe, Sal Alatorre – City of Lynwood, Dana Pynn – Long Beach Transit, Mike Egan – City of Norwalk, City Managers' Steering Committee, , Public Works Officers, KeAndra Dodds – Supervisor Solis, Mohammad Mostahkami – City of Downey, Public Works Officers. Arturo Sanchez – City of Long Beach, Tracy Egosque – Port of Long Beach. Jose Pulido – City of Cudahy Bill Pagett – City of Paramount - Public Works Officers. Dana Pynn – Long Beach Transit,


MTA Director Diane DuBois was out of town and the meeting was chaired by Gene Daniels – City of Paramount representing Supervisor Don Knabe’s office.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy, went over the Board Recap stating that the two items of interest would be discussed as separate reports.

Chair Daniels introduced Mike Egan, Chair of the City Manager’s Steering Committee (PBM). Egan went over the sales tax measure and detailed where the MTA adopted or ignored GCCOG suggestions. The Gateway Cities COG as well as the South Bay COG identified policy issues foremost of which was to give Measure R projects funding priority for the new tax measure. He went over concerns about the amount of local return allocated under the new tax measure.

He proceeded to review the project level issues and gave specific examples of where the COG’s needs were not met or addressed. He discussed the course of action taken by the GCCOG and the South Bay COG.

Al Austin asked about which projects were moved forward; Egan replied that the I-5 (I-605/I-710) delay in construction will create a severe bottleneck on the I-5 between the I-710 to I-605. The Potential Ballot Measure has the project beginning in 2036 and completing in 2042.
The vote of the South Bay COG was discussed. The vote was 9-0-6 abstentions, with the abstentions due to lack of decision based upon their councils not making a position.

Mohammad Mostahkami spoke about the need to fix local streets that are needed for active transportation and walking.

Egan suggested that the TC recommend opposing the Motion and asking for a review that would expose/explain the sequencing of the projects. Gene Daniels discussed the politics of the decision-making process. He discussed the political nature of the projects and how projects in disadvantaged communities were passed over projects in wealthier areas.

Dick Powers, discussed the nature of the GCCOG communities and what has occurred over the years as the COG has become more active in seeking its share of Countywide resources to resolve transportation and other issues.

Chair Daniels asked whether MTA Chair John Fasana wanted to address the committee. Fasana talked about the process and the mobility matrix targeted to the subregional financial target. He talked about Measure R and the voting that occurred countywide. He opined that the San Gabriel Valley would probably vote to support the Expenditure Plan. He reviewed the ordinances and the projects that are included statutorily. He reviewed the status of the West Santa Ana Branch (Eco-Rapid Transit Project) and how it evolved from a $240 million footnote to a $4 billion light rail project

He addressed the local return issue and the ability to spend up to 33 1/3% on storm water treatment. He thanked the mutual aid cities for the recent Duarte fires.

Daniels asked how the projects were advanced in more affluent areas were moved ahead.

Yvette Kirrin discussed the application of the performance criteria that are skewed to disadvantage highway projects. She went on to discuss her role in the development of the GCCOG list. She discussed the time value of the dollars slated.

Bill Pagett discussed the I-710 being pushed out and the need for freeway improvements now, he stressed that waiting 10-20 years did not work nor did it make sense.

Will Ridder discussed the development of the project application to the subregional allocation of funds. He stressed that there was a reasonable balance affected and that it is not a perfect process in trying to advance projects in every subregion. He stated that there are significant trade-offs. Pagett spoke about the status of the I-710 environmental report and the 2025 date and would require. Ridder tried to address that.

Egan spoke about the disconnect between the ballot measure language and the status of the freeway improvements. He spoke about the “system connectivity” issue where the
I-5 as being tagged as a subregional/local project and not recognized for the national and state project.

Saeed Ali, from state Senator Tony Mendoza’s office, discussed the San Fernando Valley East-West Rapidways project which has morphed from BRT to LRT. He talked about the objectivity of the data for the SFV rapidway projects, the Vermont BRT and the Sepulveda Pass.

Daniels asked Egan to make a Motion to have the COG Board oppose the Measure and request the legislature to review the modeling and application of performance measures. Measure passed by majority vote with one abstention.

A quorum was achieved and the Minutes for May 4 and June 1 were approved. David Hershenson was called upon to give his report. He discussed the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase II and the environmental issues that are associated with the SR-60 and the Washington Blvd. alignments. The Washington Blvd. alignment potentially could run down Arizona, Atlantic or in subway configuration through the City of Montebello.

Most of the other reports and updates were deferred to the Board meeting because of timing. Mohammad Mostahkhami discussed the changes under review with the MTA Call for Projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.