

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street
Cerritos, California
December 1, 2004**

Vice President Nordbak called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Board Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower
Board Member Daniel Crespo, City of Bell Gardens
Board Member John Crawley, City of Cerritos
Board Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Board Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Board Member Keith McCarthy, City of Downey
Board Member Juan Noguez, City of Huntington Park
Board Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Board Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada
Board Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Board Member Samuel Pena, City of Maywood
Board Member Edward Vasquez, City of Montebello
Board Member Beatrice Proo, City of Pico Rivera
Board Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Board Member William De Witt, City of South Gate

ABSENT: President Edward H. J. Wilson, Signal Hill
Board Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Board Member Ralph Morrow, City of Avalon
Board Member George Cole, City of Bell
Board Member Jesus Cervantes, City of Commerce
Board Member Betty Schultze, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Board Member Wayne Piercy, City of Lakewood
Board Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach
Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Board Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Board Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Board Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; Pico Rivera Assistant City Manager Debbie Lopez; Lakewood Director of Community Development Chuck Ebner; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Long Beach Traffic and Transportation Manager Sumire Gant; Brad McAllester, LACMTA Deputy Executive Officer; Ray Maekawa, LACMTA Director of Planning; Richard

Hollingsworth, President, Gateway Cities Partnership; Ken Alpern, Chair, Friends of the Green Line; Chris Wornum, Principal, Cambridge Systematics; John Barna, Anrab Associates; Walt Quesada, Transportation Program Manager, Moffatt and Nichol; Michael Milroy, Long Beach resident; GCCOG Legal Counsel Rachel Richman; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG Transportation Advisor Don Camph.

Member Crawley provided Words of Wisdom.

Member Noguez led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member Crawley, seconded by Member Crespo, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson arrived at the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Richard Hollingsworth, President of the Gateway Cities Partnership, presented a report on the Partnership's new community revitalization programs. He said the intent of the programs is to systematically transform distressed neighborhoods into beautiful, safe, and vibrant communities through the acquisition and renovation of the most distressed properties in neighborhoods that are in decline. He said that the goal is to replace three to four hundred houses for low to moderate income families. He said the Century Housing Corporation may assist prospective developers of the new housing units. Mr. Hollingsworth expressed the desire of the Partnership to convert renters into homeowners. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

Brad McAllester, Deputy Executive Director for Long Range Planning for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, presented a report on a proposed countywide congestion mitigation fee. Mr. McAllester explained the rationale for the proposed fee is the shortage of state funding for transportation projects. He said that other counties are also looking at the concept of a congestion mitigation fee. He said that, at this point of the process, the LACMTA is assessing what the reaction to the fee concept is. Such a fee would have to be implemented through each city council in the county. The plan is to report back to the MTA Board in June on what they are hearing. He said that Cambridge Systematics and Anrab Associates had been retained by LACMTA to assist in the assessment project.

Member McCarthy asked what the basis of the fee would be. Mr. McAllester responded that the fee would be tied to development and the trip generation that could be

expected.

Sumire Gant, City of Long Beach, commented that Long Beach already imposes a local fee and expressed concern about an additional fee or a change in how the City could spend its dollars.

It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report summarizing the current vacancies for COG members on the SCAG policy committees and the letters of interest that had been received regarding membership on those committees. He presented a chart showing the current membership from the Gateway Cities on the committees.

President Wilson suggested beginning with an appointment to the Energy and Environment Committee since there was only one nomination from a city that did not already have representation on a policy committee. He recommended that Bellflower Councilmember Dorothy King be appointed to the Energy and Environment Committee. It was moved by Member Crespo, seconded by Member King, to appoint Dorothy King to the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Pena announced that he was withdrawing his request to be appointed to the Transportation and Communications Committee. It was moved by Member Pena, seconded by Member Nelson, to appoint Commerce Councilmember Jesus Cervantes to the SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson announced that there were three nominees for the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee: Maywood Councilmember Thomas Martin; South Gate Councilmember Maria Davila; and Whittier Councilmember Cathy Warner. It was moved by Member Noguez, seconded by Member Crespo, to appoint South Gate Councilmember Maria Davila to the SCAG Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee. Member McCarthy mentioned that, since he would be leaving office as a Downey councilmember next week, SCAG would need to conduct an election to select a new regional councilmember from the South Gate/Downey district. He said that if Councilmember Davila is successful in that election, she could choose to become a member of the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee as a Regional Council member, leaving the Gateway Cities position open for another one of the nominees. Vice President Nordbak suggested holding over the appointment to this committee until it was learned who would represent the South Gate/Downey district on the Regional Council and to determine the continued level of interest by the three nominees. It was moved as a substitute motion by Vice President Nordbak, seconded by Member Crespo, to hold over the appointment to the SCAG Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. She said that the Committee was continuing to monitor the recommendation of the California Performance Review Commission to disband the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. She said that the efforts to oppose this recommendation have been focused on the Governor. She said that the RMC Board of Directors did not meet in November, but that they would be holding a workshop on December 6 regarding 2004/05 project funding criteria. It was moved by Member Noguez, seconded by Member McCarthy, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee had received the reports from the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Community Advisory Committees, as well as the report from the Technical Advisory Committee, and was moving forward with the next step in the re-design of the freeway. Member Pena said that he was pleased with the level of participation and the outcome of the process which reached a recommendation of the freeway. The Executive Director said that the OPC had also requested that the COG return with suggested steps for implementing a corridor level air quality action plan and to identify and pursue appropriate avenues to implement the recommendations of the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee that prove to exceed the scope of the I-710 transportation improvement project. It was moved by Member McCarthy, seconded by Vice President Nordbak, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Proo reported that there had been no meeting of the Transportation Committee that evening. It was moved by Member Crespo, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report summarizing which cities had so far taken action to participate in a Needs Assessment Study for the 91/605 freeway corridor. He said agreements to participate had already been approved by the city councils of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, and Whittier. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from SCAG Regional Council members.

There were no matters from SCAG policy committee members.

President Wilson announced that the terms of three of the members of the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Committee will expire in 2005: Larry Nelson, Jacqueline Rynerson, and Wally Shidler. He stated that effective January 2005, with the departure of Member McCarthy, that there would be a vacancy on the COG Transportation Committee. He also announced the upcoming COG Open House and Tenth Anniversary Celebration on December 8.

Vice President Nordbak thanked Member McCarthy for his many years of service to the COG. He reported that Whittier Councilmember Dave Butler, a former member of the COG Board of Directors, had resigned from the City Council and would be moving to Texas.

Member Proo complimented Member McCarthy for his service at SCAG.

President Wilson thanked Member McCarthy for his hard work and dedication in the area of housing.

Member McCarthy expressed his appreciation to all of the Board members.

The Executive Director reported that over 100 people attended the Joint Housing Summit on November 19, and that they heard California Business, Transportation, and Housing Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak make a major policy statement that the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) would be replaced with a plan for each community to submit a plan for its own growth and employment.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary