

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street
Cerritos, California
January 5, 2005**

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Vice President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Board Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Board Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower
Board Member Daniel Crespo, City of Bell Gardens
Board Member Bob Hughlett, City of Cerritos
Board Member Leonard Chaidez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Board Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
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 Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Board Member Samuel Pena, City of Maywood
Board Member Edward Vasquez, City of Montebello
Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Board Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Board Member Beatrice Proo, City of Pico Rivera
Board Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs

ABSENT: Board Member Ralph Morrow, City of Avalon
Board Member George Cole, City of Bell
Board Member Jesus Cervantes, City of Commerce
Board Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Board Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Board Member, City of Downey
Board Member Juan Noguez, City of Huntington Park
Board Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada
Board Member William De Witt, City of South Gate
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; Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe; Mike Hollon, Field Representative, Office of Assemblyman Hector De La Torre; Ray Maekawa, LACMTA Director of Planning; Alex Clifford,

General Manager, LACMTA Gateway Cities Service Sector; David Hershensen, LACMTA Community Relations Manager; Dan Nguyen, LACMTA Service Development Manager, Gateway Cities Service Sector; Natalia Porche, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Nancy Pfeffer, Senior Planner, SCAG; Joe Aro, Executive Director, South Bay Economic Development Partnership; John Parsons, Co-Chair, Los Angeles Air Force Base Regional Alliance; Ram Kumar, Principal Planning Manager, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas; Frank Osgood, Planner; John Barna, Anrab Associates; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG Legal Counsel Rachel Richman; GCCOG Transportation Advisor Don Camph; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

President Wilson provided Words of Wisdom.

Member Crespo led the pledge of allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

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

Joe Aro, Executive Director of the South Bay Economic Development Partnership, presented a report on the pending vote before Congress regarding possible base realignment and closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base. He said that closure of the base, which is of critical importance to the U.S. military, would have a huge economic impact on the whole state, Los Angeles County, and the Gateway Cities sub-region. Mr. Aro reported that the satellite and space programs at the base generate nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the county and more than 110,000 jobs in the state. He said the total economic output in Los Angeles County was \$8 billion annually.

Redondo Beach Councilmember John Parsons, who also serves as Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Air Force Base Regional Alliance, asked that the Board, at a future meeting, adopt a resolution opposing the closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and encourage the member cities to adopt similar resolutions. Member Hughlett asked that the Alliance provide information on the numbers of residents in the cities within the sub-region who are employed by the base and related businesses. He asked that the Alliance send a resolution for the Board of Directors to consider. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Piercy, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ray Maekawa, LACMTA Director of Planning, presented a report on the proposed alternatives for the extension of the Metro Green Line from its current terminus to the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center. He said that the environmental impact report on the alternatives was over ten years old and that the proposed extension was not currently in either the MTA's short range or long range plans. He said there was not much community support for the plan when it was presented in 1993.

Member Pena said that he was more interested in seeing a western extension of the Green Line into the Los Angeles International Airport. Member Stefenhagen said that Norwalk has opposed all alternatives for an eastern extension in the past. Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing asked what the timing would be to include the extension in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Maekawa responded that there is an April deadline for comments to go to the MTA Board to have something incorporated into the 2006 Long Range Plan. President Wilson suggested that the MTA go back to the Norwalk City Council to see if there is any support for the project. It was moved by Vice President Nordbak, seconded by Member Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Transportation Advisor Don Camph reported that, in response to a request from the Governor, SCAG had issued a report entitled "Southern California Regional Strategy for Goods Movement: A Plan for Action", but that the Gateway Cities and San Gabriel Valley COGs were not given the opportunity to review and comment upon the draft. He recommended that staff be authorized to develop a letter to be sent to Governor Schwarzenegger, to be co-signed by the Presidents of the Gateway Cities, San Gabriel Valley, and South Bay COGs recommending that he communicate with President Bush the need for federal funding to help pay for infrastructure improvements related to goods movement and to communicate to the President the need for EPA and other federal agencies to develop an action plan for reducing air pollution related to goods movement. It was moved by Member Pena, seconded by Vice President Nordbak, to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. She said that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy had recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. At its meeting of December 6, 2004, the RMC Board discussed its criteria for recommending projects for bond funding in the next year. The RMC Board had approved an additional \$72,000 to the City of Paramount for the Ralph C. Dills Park expansion project and added the Montebello Trail Improvements project to the work program. It was moved by Member Chaidez, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 Oversight Policy

Committee. He said that the MTA Planning and Programming Committee is to meet on January 19 to decide on further funding for the project.

Member Proo presented the Transportation Committee report. She said that the Committee had earlier heard Mr. Maekawa's report on the proposed Green Line extension, as well an update on the MTA Long Range Transportation Plan. MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager Alex Clifford reported on the challenge of the budget process, saying that the MTA had a significant preliminary operating deficit of \$86 million.

It was moved by Member Crespo, seconded by Member Nelson, to receive and file both the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee and Transportation Committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a status report on the 91/605 Needs Assessment Study, saying that most cities had now approved an Implementation Agreement to participate in the study. It was moved by Member Hughlett, seconded by Member Crespo, 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.

There were no matters from the President.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Hughlett, seconded by Member Nelson, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.