

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Cerritos Senior Center  
12340 South Street  
Cerritos, California  
February 2, 2005**

Member Proo called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT: 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 Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy  
Board Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey  
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 Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach  
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  
Board Member William De Witt, City of South Gate

ABSENT: President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Vice President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier  
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 Juan Noguez, City of Huntington Park  
Board Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada  
Board Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach  
Board Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood  
Board Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Board Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

ALSO PRESENT: Pico Rivera Assistant City Manager Debbie Lopez; Lakewood Director of Community Development Chuck Ebner; Downey Assistant to the City Manager James Makshanoff; Long Beach Traffic and Transportation Manager Sumire Gant; Bell Special Projects Manager Raul Romero; Robert Garcia, Staff of Long Beach Councilmember Frank Colonna; Mike Hollon, Field Representative, Office of Assemblyman Hector De La Torre; Ray Maekawa, LACMTA Director of Planning; Cheryl Collier, Communications Supervisor, SCAG; Ralph Webb,

Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Chris Campbell, Coalition for Environmental Protection, Restoration, and Development; Frank Osgood, Planner; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG Legal Counsel Rachel Richman; GCCOG Legislative Advocate John Barna; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Hughlett led the pledge of allegiance.

The Executive Director reported that, subsequent to the posting of the agenda for tonight's meeting, the COG had been requested by the I-5 Joint Powers Authority to take action supporting the I-5 JPA's efforts to obtain federal statutory language that will insure the programming of the I-5 preferred alternative and to support a TEA-21 request of \$377 million for the I-5 Corridor Improvement Project. He said that because of the impending deadline for federal earmark requests, there was time urgency for the request. It was moved by Member Putnam, seconded by Member De Witt, to amend the agenda and add the request from the I-5 JPA as an urgency item. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice President Nordbak arrived at the meeting at 6:07 p.m. and assumed the chair.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member Hughlett, seconded by Member Nelson, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Vice President Nordbak requested information regarding the warrant which included expenses related to attendance at Presidential Inauguration events. The Executive Director explained that the cities whose council members attended the events had committed to reimbursing the COG for those expenses. Vice President Nordbak said that answered his concern. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the COG had been notified at the end of December by Government Relations, Inc., and by Allynn Howe, the principal lobbyist assigned to the COG by GRI, that Mr. Howe was leaving GRI to return to being the principal of his own firm, Government Relations Consultants. He said the question before the Board was whether to remain with GRI or contract with Government Relations Consultants in order to retain the services of Mr. Howe. Member Piercy said that if the Board decided to go with Government Relations Consultants it would need quarterly or semi-annual reports of activities by the firm. The Executive Director responded that Government Relations Consultants had committed to presenting monthly reports. Member Hughlett commented that Allynn Howe, the principal for Government Relations Consultants, was very well received by the congressional offices during his recent trip to Washington on behalf of the Orange Line Development Authority. He said he was very impressed by Mr. Howe's knowledge. It was moved by Member Putnam, seconded by Member Nelson, to give thirty days notice of termination to Government Relations, Inc., and to enter into an agreement with Government Relations Consultants. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson arrived at the meeting at 6:17 p.m. and assumed the chair.

The Executive Director said that he was presenting a recommendation from the City Managers Steering Committee to apply for \$100,000 in grant funds from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to develop a Copper Toxicity Model Program. He then introduced Chris Campbell of the Coalition for Environmental Protection, Restoration, and Development. Mr. Campbell explained that his organization was a private non-profit entity which has been working to develop funding to provide credible scientific data that can be used by regulatory agencies in establishing water quality standards. He said that the Regional Water Quality Board is in the process of developing standards for Total Maximum Daily Loads for metal content in local rivers. In the absence of local research, these standards will be based on national laboratory studies and not on local conditions. If the recommended study is funded, it can be used to establish a local baseline and assist the Water Quality Board in establishing city runoff procedures. He said this study would be done in cooperation with environmental groups.

Member De Witt asked if the numbers for the copper limits have already been set. Mr. Campbell responded that they had but that they will change. He said that the copper industry has indicated its support for this study. It was moved by Member Pratt, seconded by Member Hughlett, to approve the recommendation that the COG apply for grant funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy towards this study. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development presented the Conservancy report. She said that the RMC Board did not meet in January. She said that she wanted to remind cities that a list of projects that have not yet been funded but are still under consideration has been circulated to the cities to verify that funding for the projects is still being sought. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

At this time the Board took up the item added as an amendment to the agenda regarding the request from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority for support for language designating the locally preferred alternative and for its earmark request. The Executive Director introduced Ralph Webb, Executive Director for the I-5 JPA. Mr. Webb said that his request was similar to the one made last year and approved by the COG Executive Committee. He said the support was needed again because last year's transportation funding authorization bill had not been adopted before Congress adjourned and was now being drafted by the new Congress. He asked for Board support for the I-5 JPA's \$377 million earmark request and for a legislative provision that funds be limited to the I-5's Locally Preferred Alternative. It was moved by Member Proo, seconded by Member Piercy, to approve the request for support. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee. He passed out copies of the motion recently approved by the MTA Board of Directors approving the Locally Preferred Alternative adopted by the I-710 OPC. He said the next phase of the project, the development of an environmental impact report, would cost approximately \$30 million and take three years to complete. He said that the intent is to have a seamless progression in the project development with the same parties involved

who participated in the Major Corridor Study. Member Proo commented that it was good to see Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill at the MTA Board meeting at which the action regarding the I-710 Major Corridor Study took place. She said that, after a very involved discussion, the MTA Board unanimously approved the Locally Preferred Alternative. It was moved by Member Proo, seconded by Member Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Dobson arrived at the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Member Proo reported that there had been no meeting of the Transportation Committee this evening. Member Lowenthal requested that a discussion of the Regional Transportation Plan update be agendaized for next month. It was moved by President Wilson, seconded by Vice President Nordbak, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the City of Long Beach had acted last night to approve the agreement to participate in the SR 91/I-605 Needs Assessment Study and that only Compton and the County of Los Angeles had yet to act, but were expected to soon. He said the first orientation meeting on the study would be held at the end of the month and that cities have been requested to submit the names of their representatives for the Corridor Cities Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Vazquez, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sharon Collier, Communications Supervisor for SCAG, offered to answer any questions that Board members had regarding the agenda for the SCAG Regional Council. There were no questions and no action was taken.

There were no matters from SCAG policy committee members.

President Wilson reported that he had the opportunity to speak at the Clean Air Program outreach event for Port of Los Angeles truckers on Saturday in Wilmington. He said that some truckers had complained that dealers were inflating the price of their trucks to cover their costs of participating in the program. He asked that staff follow up on this and report back with a recommendation. President Wilson announced that the Port of Los Angeles had agreed to contribute an additional \$5 million towards the Clean Air Program, bringing its total contribution up to \$15 million.

Member Proo announced that there was not a quorum of the City Selection Committee for its January meeting to confirm the election of two MTA Board members and encouraged cities to attend the next month's meeting so that the election process can be concluded.

Member Nelson asked for a status report on the process of the selection of a new attorney for the COG. President Wilson said that the Attorney Selection Committee would be interviewing four firms on Saturday and would be coming back with a recommendation at next month's meeting for the Board's approval. Member Vazquez asked why the COG had gone out with the RFP for a new attorney. The General Counsel responded that the Board had decided last summer, when General Counsel Robert Messinger left Burke,

Williams and Sorensen, to go out with an RFP. She said Burke, Williams and Sorensen had made the decision not to respond to the RFP because of a potential conflict of interest regarding the I-710 project. Member Crespo asked which firms were the four finalists that will be interviewed. President Wilson replied that the four finalists were: Richards, Watson and Gershon; Aleshire and Wynder; Jones and Mayer; and Jenkins and Hogan.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Crespo, seconded by Member Gurule, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.