

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

Vice President Nordbak called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT: 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 Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Board Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Board Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
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 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 Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Board Member Maria Davila, City of South Gate

ABSENT: President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Board Member Ralph Morrow, City of Avalon
Board Member George Cole, City of Bell
Board Member Jesus Cervantes, City of Commerce
Board Member Leonard Chaidez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Board Member John Noguez, City of Huntington Park
Board Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada
Board Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Board Member Beatrice Proo, City of Pico Rivera
Board Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Board Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

ALSO PRESENT: Downey City Manager Gerald M. Caton, COG Treasurer; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; Pico Rivera Assistant to the City Manager Raphael Guillen; 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; Connie Sziebl, Field Representative for Supervisor Don Knabe; Sharad Mulchand, Transportation Planning Manager, LACMTA; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, LACMTA Gateway Cities Service Sector; Wally Shidler, LACMTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Council; Naresh Amatya, Lead Regional Planner, SCAG; Luis Cetina, Senior Government Relations Representative, Municipal Water District; Ralph Webb, Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Walt Quesada, Transportation Program Manager, Moffat & Nichol; 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 Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Bayer led the pledge of allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

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

President Wilson arrived at the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Signal Hill City Manager presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee on the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Proposed Model Air Quality Element. Mr. Farfsing said that, although the Model Air Quality Element is voluntary, it is likely to serve as a model for future state regulation or legislation. He said it was, therefore, critical that cities comment at this time.

With regard to transportation sources of emissions, Mr. Farfsing said that the Model Air Quality Element does not adequately recognize the sequence of land use decisions in built up urban areas such as the Gateway Cities. Furthermore, it does not adequately recognize the responsibility under state law for cities to provide for additional housing. He said the thrust of the model element is to make a requirement on cities to regulate air quality next to all sensitive land uses. For example, there would be a requirement that buffer zones from rail yards and similar uses be provided. He said that the City Managers Steering Committee had reviewed the model element, but were concerned that it could lead to

mandatory standards that may be appropriate for newly developing areas, but very difficult for fully developed cities.

It was moved by Member Hughlett, seconded by Member Gurule, to send a letter to the South Coast Air Quality Management District containing the points recommended by the City Managers Steering Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson presented a report summarizing the process used by the Ad Hoc Attorney Selection Committee to arrive at a recommendation to the Board for appointment of a new General Counsel. He said that the Committee had interviewed four firms and unanimously agreed to recommend that the Board enter into a legal services agreement with Jones & Mayer and to appoint Richard D. Jones as General Counsel. It was moved by Member Pratt, seconded by Member Gurule, to approve the recommendation and to appoint Richard D. Jones as General Counsel effective March 3, 2005. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director presented a report reviewing the mid-year 2004-05 budget and recommending that funds received from the cities who have agreed to participate in the SR 91/I-605 Needs Assessment Study be appropriated. He recommended that the Board of Directors approve a resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Budget to provide for these appropriations, as well as to make adjustments in certain expenditure accounts that were projected to vary above or below the adopted budget figures.

The Deputy Executive Director then presented the recommendation from the COG Treasurer that the Board approve an increase in the transportation assessment to be effective in 2005-06 in order to generate approximately \$52,000 annually to cover the engineering costs that the COG has assumed relative to several transportation projects. He said that the transportation assessment had not been increased since its inception in 1997, and that cities are able to utilize Proposition A or C funds to pay their assessments.

Member Colonna commented on the significant financial commitment that the City of Long Beach had made to the COG and said that it was in the spirit of the cities working together for the betterment of the entire sub-region.

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-02—A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AMENDING THE 2004-05 BUDGET

It was moved by Member Pratt, seconded by Member Hughlett, to waive further reading and adopt the resolution amending the 2004-05 budget and to approve the recommendation from the Treasurer to increase the transportation assessment effective fiscal year 2005-06. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development presented a report recommending proposed amendments to the MTA Service Sector Council Nominating Policy and Procedure. She said that the suggested language would make technical "cleanup" changes to the procedures, namely: to refer to filling current vacancies rather than all seven positions; reflect the change from monthly meetings of the COG Executive Committee to monthly meetings of the Board of Directors; reflect that the screening subcommittee is intended to screen potential public sector council members and not elected officials; and reflects that deciding on elected official members first allows the subcommittee to accomplish its task of providing for a diversity of transit issues and ridership in the sector.

The Director of Program Development said that a second issue before the Board was whether to nominate three sector council members whose terms expire in June 2005 or to solicit nominations for those positions. She explained that when the sector council was organized in 2003 that three of the seven seats were given shortened terms so that the three year terms of the council members were staggered. She said that the three members who drew shortened two year terms, Artesia Councilmember Larry Nelson and public members Jacqueline Rynerson and Wally Shidler, had all expressed a desire to be reappointed.

Member Pena commented that he had served on the sector council with the three members whose terms expired in June and favored their reappointment.

It was moved by Member Pena, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to approve the recommended changes to the MTA Service Sector Nominating Policy and Procedure. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Pena, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to nominate Artesia Councilmember Larry Nelson, Jacqueline Rynerson, and Wally Shidler to the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Pedroza arrived at the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Member Colonna presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said that SB 153 had provided an opportunity for the Conservancy to receive a substantial earmark. It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Hughlett, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

I-5 Joint Powers Authority Executive Director Ralph Webb provided a status report on the I-5 corridor project. He said that the Orange County segment of the project is now in design and that construction would commence in early 2006. He said the segment from the Orange County line to I-605 is in the environmental review process. He said the environmental document should be available for review in May. He said that the total funding of \$610 million for this segment has been achieved. Mr. Webb reported that the Carmenita Road interchange is in

design, but is subject to a settlement agreement with the state. However, the cost is now estimated at \$300 million and funds that the state has programmed are short of that amount. He said the reason is because of increased right of way acquisition cost estimates. He said that the Carmenita interchange is now undergoing design review to see how costs may be reduced. The I-5 JPA is seeking funding from GARVEE bonds for this element of the project. Finally, he said that the JPA had approved an agreement to provide funding to complete the "mini-study" of the I-5/I-710 interchange and would be providing \$100,000 towards the study.

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report from Mr. Webb. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee. He said that the MTA had appropriated \$5 million to begin what is anticipated to be a \$25-30 million environmental impact report phase of the project. He said that documents were currently being drafted to accomplish this and that MTA would be the lead agency for the EIR phase. It was moved by Member Hughlett, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a status report on the Needs Assessment Study for State Route 91 and Interstate 605. He said that a start-up meeting was in the process of being arranged in the near future. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that there had been no meeting of the Transportation Committee that evening.

There were no matters from SCAG Regional Council members.

In response to a request from Member Lowenthal at the previous month's Board meeting, Naresh Amatya, Lead Regional Planner for SCAG, presented a report on the timeline for the 2007 update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Amatya said that federal law requires that SCAG update the RTP every three years. The next update is due in April 2007. He said that the plan must be fiscally constrained, meaning that it cannot include projects for which funding has not been identified. He said there are presently a number of fiscal issues, including the state budget. He said the 2004 RTP assumed that funds from Proposition 42 and a one-half cent sales tax would be available in Los Angeles County. However, it won't be known for eight to ten months what the impact from the state budget will be. Mr. Amatya said that at tomorrow's meeting of the SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee staff would be proposing a flexible time line to update the RTP to accommodate changes from the state.

Member Lowenthal said that language regarding I-710 in the 2004 RTP was very vague. Now that the project has been conceptually designed and adopted by the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee it should be included in the RTP Update.

It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Nelson, that the Transportation and Communications Committee members vote to incorporate the approved design of the I-710 corridor in the 2007 RTP Update. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson recognized outgoing Lakewood Councilmember Wayne Piercy as a founding member of the COG. He said that Member Piercy had been a valuable and dedicated asset to the COG for the past ten years. He then presented a plaque to Member Piercy recognizing his service as a member of the Board of Directors. Member Piercy thanked President Wilson for the recognition and said that he was committed to the regional concept.

The Executive Director announced an invitation to attend the seventh annual CITT State of the Trade and Transportation Industry town hall meeting to be held in Long Beach on Thursday, March 10.

The Executive Director announced that three SCAG Regional Council seats were up for election, and that the election would be held prior to the April 6 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Members Piercy and Daniels congratulated President Wilson on his re-election to the Signal Hill City Council.

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

Adjournment: The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.