

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

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

**PRESENT:** President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier  
First Vice President Samuel Pena, City of Maywood  
Second Vice President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia  
Immediate Past President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Board Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower  
Board Member John Crawley, 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 Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park  
Board Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights  
Board Member Diane DuBois, 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 Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk  
Board Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Board Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Board Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate

**ABSENT:** Board Member Ralph Morrow, City of Avalon  
Board Member George Cole, City of Bell  
Board Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens  
Board Member Robert Fierro, City of Commerce  
Board Member Leonard Chaidez, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Board Member Bob Chotiner, City of La Mirada  
Board Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood  
Board Member Edward Vasquez, City of Montebello  
Board Member David Armenta, City of Pico Rivera  
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; South Gate City Manager Gary Milliman; South Gate Director of Public Works Bob Dickey; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Cerritos Assistant City Engineer Hal Arbogast; Lakewood Senior Planner Sonia Southwell; Bell Special Projects Manager Raul Romero; South Gate Assistant to the City Manager Binti Harvey; Marilee Marrero, Los Angeles County Public Library; Kristine Guerrero, Regional

Representative, League of California Cities; Patrician Price, Public Affairs Specialist, South Coast AQMD; Sharad Mulchand, Transportation Planning Manager, LACMTA; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, LACMTA Gateway Cities Service Sector; Nancy Pfeffer, Senior Transportation Planner, SCAG; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Jerry Wood, Acting Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Thomas Duarte.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Pratt led the pledge of allegiance.

The Executive Director requested that item H on the consent calendar be pulled from the agenda because the contract with Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee had not been received in time to be acted on. It was the consensus of the Board to remove item H from the consent calendar.

The Executive Director announced that the stipend checks for the 91/605 Corridor Cities Committee members shown on the warrant register were in incorrect amounts and that new warrants would be issued in their place.

Patrician Price, South Coast Air Quality Management District, announced that the AQMD would be hosting meetings regarding port related emissions at the two ports.

President Nordbak presented plaques recognizing years of service to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments to former LACMTA Executive Officer Jim de la Loza and former LACMTA Gateway Cities Area Team Leader Ray Maekawa.

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously, with Member Nelson abstaining on item A, the minutes for the Board meeting of September 7, 2005, and the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting of October 5, 2005.

Member Lowenthal introduced Nancy Pfeffer, SCAG Senior Transportation Planner, who would be making a presentation on the SCAG Port Modal Elasticity Study. Member Lowenthal said that she did not want to take a position as a SCAG Regional Council Member regarding the SCAG Port Modal Elasticity Study until a presentation could be made before the COG Board of Directors.

Nancy Pfeffer summarized the findings of the Port Modal Elasticity Study: 1) port import volume is much more elastic with respect to congestion than with respect to container fees, although volume is elastic with respect to container fees; 2) a \$60 per forty foot equivalent unit (FEU) fee would cut import volume by about 6%; 3) with congestion relief, imports are relatively inelastic up to a fee of about \$200 per FEU; 4) at the \$200 per FEU fee level, total imports would decline by about 4.3%, while transloaded volume

would increase by about 12.5%; and 5) fees greater than \$200 per FEU would significantly diminish imports, even if based on congestion relief.

Member Lowenthal reported that the Transportation Committee had heard the report earlier and had recommended that more work be done on identification of specific projects for funding from the container fees, that the study findings be shared with stakeholders, that there be an analysis of environmental mitigation for infrastructure improvements, and that an analysis of the impact of container fees on the Regional Transportation Plan's adopted projects was needed.

Immediate Past President Wilson asked if there is a model run based on the projected growth at the ports. Ms. Pfeffer replied that the model could be run with future volume projections. Immediate Past President Wilson said that the model may show that the increased volume would offset any loss due to the fees.

Second Vice President Nelson asked how long there would be a 4.3% loss at the \$200 fee level. Ms. Pfeffer said that, rather than an annual loss, it would be more like a loss of market share, which would go somewhere else.

Member Daniels said that the study shows that shippers are willing to pay more money to get their inventories to their destinations in a reasonable amount of time.

Member Colonna said that it is a very complex issue. He said that our region consumes 40-50% of all cargo, so diverted cargo may come back to us in some other way. He said we need to be cautious about a fee because payers will clearly want to know how the fee will directly improve congestion. Member Colonna said that this needs to be a regional concept, not just a Gateway Cities one.

Member DuBois asked what the impact of a proposed port at Ensenada would be on the findings of the study. Ms. Pfeffer responded that the study shows a very small loss of trade to an Ensenada port. She said that there are many years between a plan and a functioning port, but that it won't be a major draw.

Member Lowenthal said that the Transportation Committee had made clear in its recommendation that we don't want to lose what we now have. She said the governor is trying to wrap up a goods movement package by January and we don't want to be left out.

It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Lowenthal presented an overview of the updating of the MTA's Long Range Transportation Plan, which is expected to be completed in June 2006. She said that this minor update will build on the 2001 plan and is the Los Angeles County portion of the SCAG 2007 Regional Transportation Plan. It will extend the planning horizon from 2025 to 2030. Member Lowenthal said that the financial picture includes maintaining the priorities of the 2001 Plan, but updates the financial model to include changes in

federal, state, and local revenues. Notable are \$2 billion increases in highway costs through 2030. Transit infrastructure costs will increase by \$1.1 to \$1.9 billion as the project scopes are refined through 2030.

The Executive Director said that what the Board has before itself is the Gateway Cities chapter of the Long Range Transportation Plan, as recommended by the Transportation Committee. It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member Colonna, to approve the draft Gateway Cities chapter to the Long Range Transportation Plan as recommended by the Transportation Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report which forwarded a recommendation from the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the request for staff support from Monrovia City Councilmember Mary Ann Lutz, who sits as the municipal government representative to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. He said that the managers had learned that no city staff member can assist a Board member because the cities hold permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. He said that the San Gabriel Valley COG had approached the Gateway Cities COG about a cooperative approach among the affected COGs to provide staff for Board Member Lutz. Since the San Gabriel Valley COG is staffed by consultants, it was felt that the Gateway Cities COG would likely be the employer of the staff support for Board Member Lutz, dependent on a funding strategy involving the other COGs. The Executive Director said that a request from member cities for a voluntary contribution of up to \$1,500 would be intended to fund a part-time position at an estimated cost of \$60,000.

Ken Farfsing, Chairman of the City Managers Steering Committee, said that this position is important because the Regional Water Quality Control Board dictates water policy on cities. He distributed a chart showing copper concentrations in various municipal water systems.

Second Vice President Nelson asked if a part-time position is sufficient. Mr. Farfsing responded that the preference is to evaluate the position after a pilot period of one year. He said they also wanted to receive the comments of Councilmember Lutz.

Member Bayer asked where the staff person would be housed. Mr. Farfsing said that it will have to be worked out.

It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Pratt, to: 1) survey COG member cities to determine their willingness to participate in funding a staff member for the Regional Water Quality Control Board member; 2) outreach to other COGs to seek their participation; and 3) return to the Board of Directors with a detailed proposal for its consideration. President Nordbak asked if this proposal will come back to the Board of Directors before it is implemented. It was agreed to by Members Colonna and Pratt to make that a condition of their motion. The motion was approved unanimously as amended.

The Executive Director reported the recommendation of the subcommittee appointed to consider nominations for the vacancy for a public member of the Gateway Cities MTA

Sector Governance Council that Mr. Vincent Torres be appointed to the Council. It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the nomination of Vincent Torres to the Sector Governance Council and to submit the nomination to the MTA Board of Directors for approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Colonna provided a report on the October joint meeting of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board and the Watershed Conservation Authority. It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Immediate Past President Wilson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood, Interim Executive Director of the I-5 Joint powers Authority, provided a brief update on the status of the I-5 project. It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Lowenthal, 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 Commerce/East Los Angeles “mini-study” had been completed and had been submitted to the Tier 1 community advisory committees. He said that a new Memorandum of Understanding for the environmental phase is being circulated among the funding partners. He reported that almost \$30 million had been committed to the environmental phase subject to approval of the Port of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners of a \$5 million contribution. It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the 91/605 Corridor Cities Committee had completed its Needs Assessment Study and that an action item regarding the Committee’s recommendation is on the agenda. Hal Arbogast, Chairman of the 91/605 Technical Advisory Committee reported that the Committee was very pleased with the effort that the project consultants had put into the study. He said that the sheer volume of trucks that we will see on those freeways is frightening. Member Colonna spoke in support of the study.

Member Stefenhagen, Chairman of the 91/605 Corridor Cities Committee, reported that the member cities are satisfied with the report and that the Committee will be meeting again in January. It was moved by Member Stefenhagen, seconded by Member DuBois, to have the Gateway Cities COG proceed with a major corridor study of the two freeways as defined in the final report of the Needs Assessment Study; and to direct staff to return with a cost estimate, funding plan, and schedule to the 91/605 Corridor Cities Committee at a future date. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Lowenthal said that most of the items from the Transportation Committee had already been acted on earlier in the meeting. She announced that November 14 is the date for the Mobility 21 conference, which will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center. It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no reports from SCAG Regional Council members.

There were no reports from SCAG policy committee members.

President Nordbak asked the Deputy General Counsel to look into the rules concerning the length of public comments. President Nordbak said that Thanksgiving was approaching and that we all have things to be thankful for.

Member Lowenthal reported that the meeting of the National League of Cities in December conflicted with the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. It was the consensus of the Board to retain the December meeting date.

Member Lowenthal reported on the recent dedication of the Orange Line bus way in the San Fernando Valley.

Second Vice President Nelson reminded everyone that November 11 is Veterans Day.

First Vice President Pena thanked the Executive Director and Jerry Wood for setting up the recent meetings in Washington regarding the COG's transportation projects. He said that comments were made that the I-710 Major Corridor Study is becoming a national model.

The Executive Director reported that the Clearwater Building in the City of Paramount, which houses the COG's offices, was now completely remodeled and capable of accommodating the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors and the Transportation Committee if it were the pleasure of the Board to move the meetings. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to move the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors and Transportation Committee to the COG offices in Paramount beginning in the month of January. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Nordbak thanked the City of Cerritos for hosting the meetings of the Board for the past ten years.

It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member Dobson, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.