

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, California
March 7, 2007**

President Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
First Vice President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Second Vice President John Pratt, City of Bellflower
Immediate Past President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Paul Bowlen, City of Cerritos
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Jeff Siccama, City of Montebello
Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Ron Beilke, City of Pico Rivera
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Nancy Ramos, City of Commerce
Member John Heckerman, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member Kerry Cartwright, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Long Beach Councilwoman Tonia Reyes Uranga,
Director, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Connie Sziebl,

Field Representative for Supervisor Don Knabe; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Long Beach Government Affairs Analyst Dominica Davis; Ray Pok, Board Assistant to ACAQMD Board Member Tonia Reyes Uranga; Debra Reed, Public Affairs, SCAQMD; Bev Perry, Manager of Member Relations, SCAG; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Michael Sieckert, Planning Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; John Doherty, Chief Executive Officer, Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority; Jerry Wood, Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Bowlen led the pledge of allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

The Executive Director distributed the new COG tote bag to the Board members and described the updated COG website. He reported that the Homeless Initiative was moving forward; the County will be providing the COG with \$150,000 to administer a needs assessment. He said that a County budget of an annual contribution of \$1.2 million for ongoing expenses is being moved forward by Supervisors Knabe and Molina.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Putnam, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

John Doherty, Chief Executive Officer of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, made a presentation on the current activities of the Authority. He said that, as of April, the Authority will have been in business for five years. He showed a video of the proposed extension to SR 47, which would provide the missing link to Alameda Street. He said the lack of this improvement leads to greater truck congestion on the Long Beach and Harbor freeways. The proposal is for an elevated expressway over the existing SR 47 to Alameda Street at Pacific Coast Highway, a 1.7 mile route. The estimated cost of this improvement is \$540 million.

Mr. Doherty said that the trade forecast is very high. The Alameda Corridor

project was primarily aimed at environmental mitigation; growth to 100 trains a day on the unimproved corridor would have resulted in gridlock. The corridor currently runs 55 trains a day, carrying over 7,500 containers. The capacity of the corridor is 160 trains. Revenues to the Authority are based on \$18 per TEU.

Mr. Doherty spoke regarding the proposed near dock rail facility. He said currently 1,600 trucks a day carry containers to the downtown rail yards. The proposed facility would remove these trucks from the freeway, resulting in a 20% reduction in NOx and PM. He said there is a need to address the 400 trucks that would serve the near dock facility.

Member Pedroza asked if there would be many more trucks on Alameda Street because of the SR 47 project. Mr. Doherty responded that there would not be, because their destinations are in Carson or at the intermodal facilities.

Immediate Past President Nordbak asked how this would impact the potential funding for I-710. He asked if Maglev would not be a better alternative from an environmental standpoint. Mr. Doherty responded that one of the problems with Maglev is that it costs \$100 million per mile and is probably ten to fifteen years away, even if chosen. He said the new 2007 model diesel trucks will reduce emissions by 90%.

Member Gurule asked why the Alameda Corridor is only running at 35% of capacity. Mr. Doherty said that the Corridor was designed for maximum capacity to be reached in 2020.

Member Aguirre asked if there is any chance that the Alameda Corridor will be electrified. Mr. Doherty responded that the problem is that you can't electrify the downtown rail yards. President Nelson asked if the electrification cannot be on the rails. Mr. Doherty responded that the cost would be formidable. He said there is no current operation of that system, which uses linear induction motors, and it is an untried technology.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, introduced Bev Perry, the new Manager of Member Relations for SCAG. Ms. Perry said that SCAG had created her position to improve its outreach to cities. She said that SCAG was working on getting the rest of the country to understand the impact that volume of cargo from the ports, of which 43% is destined for other parts of the country, has on the region. She spoke regarding the upcoming March 16 deadline for cities to appeal their RHNA allocation. She said that SCAG was deep into the next Regional Transportation Plan update. Ms. Perry expressed her pleasure in working with Member Bowlen, who is leaving as the Chair of the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee of SCAG.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She distributed information on the League's priority bills. She said that SB 286 would

allow cities to get half of their local streets and roads money from the state bond measure by 2008. She asked cities to send letters of support for SB 286. She also asked for letters of support for SB 934 (Lowenthal), which would allow for creation of housing and infrastructure zones. Ms. Guerrero said cities should look for a survey they will be receiving regarding the League's grass roots program and asked for participation in that survey.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

Jerry Wood, I-5 Joint Powers Authority Executive Director, presented a status report on the I-5 project. He said the JPA had received \$387 million from the California Transportation Commission to fund the I-5 improvements from the Orange County line to I-605. Caltrans will be certifying the EIR by May. He said the JPA will try to complete this project within five to six years. He said the Carmenita Bridge project is underway, as is the work on the EIR for the segment north of I-605.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

SCAQMD Board Member Tonia Reyes Uranga presented a report on the draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan. She said that workshops regarding the Plan are scheduled for March, a public hearing will be conducted in April, and adoption of the Plan will take place in May. She announced a lawn mower exchange program and a grant program funded by settlement money from British Petroleum. She said the hearing on Rule 1309.1 had been postponed until June or July.

Member Pedroza asked how the SCAQMD felt about leaf blowers. Ms. Reyes Uranga responded that the District also has a leaf blower exchange program.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the consultant selection process was underway and that the MTA hopes to have completed the process in the next few weeks so that work can start in a couple of months. He reported that the MTA-funded Truck Inspection Facility Feasibility Study is underway.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that the MTA funded project to do the initial studies for the Major Corridor Study was about to be initiated.

Member Lowenthal presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the Committee had talked about the proposed Congestion Management Fee and was trying to slow down and improve the process. She said the MTA will pass a goods movement plan for Los Angeles County after adoption of the Multi-

County Goods Movement Plan. She reported that the MTA and OCTA have held several meetings on inter-connectivity issues.

There was no report from the Housing Committee.

Member Bowlen said that he wished Member Pratt well on his retirement from the Bellflower City Council. Member Pratt thanked Member Bowlen and complimented Member Bowlen on his retirement from the Cerritos City Council. Connie Sziebl thanked Member Pratt for his support over the years.

There were no matters from the President.