

**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  
May 2, 2007**

President Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia  
First Vice President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park  
Immediate Past President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Laura Lee, City of Cerritos  
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce  
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 Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach  
Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood  
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood  
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  
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate

**ABSENT:** Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon  
Member Oscar Hernandez, City of Bell  
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens  
Member John Heckerman, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada  
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach  
Member Jeff Siccama, City of Montebello  
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: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Debra Reed, Public Affairs, SCAQMD; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Thomas Duarte; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; Karen Heit, GCCOG Transportation Deputy.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Dunton led the pledge of allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

The Executive Director announced that there was a vacancy on the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness. President Nelson asked if there were any volunteers to take the position on the Committee. Member Dunton said that he would be willing to serve on the Committee. It was the consensus of the Board to appoint Member Dunton to fill the vacancy on the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness.

The Executive Director announced that the election of officers will occur at the Annual Meeting of the Board. He said that the Board would need to select a date for the Annual Meeting, preferably in late June, in order to take the place of the July Board meeting which would otherwise fall on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the Annual Meeting for Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

The Executive Director announced an invitation to Board members to attend the Thirteenth Annual California State University, Long Beach, Economic Forecast Conference to be held on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved by Member Du Bois, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved, with Member Dunton abstaining.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report recommending that the COG coordinate the administration of special studies related to the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of metals in urban runoff that are permitted to

flow into the Los Angeles River. The studies would be funded by assessments to cities within the watershed, including the City of Los Angeles and cities in the San Gabriel Valley. The purpose of the studies would be to produce locally site specific levels of toxic metal that can be tolerated by species within the watershed. These levels may prove to be higher than those based on the standards adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, thus saving considerable expense for the cities in the watershed.

The Executive Director explained that the recommendation came from the City Managers Steering Committee with the proviso that the COG be fully funded for its administrative expenses.

Immediate Past President Nordbak asked where the funding for the study would come from. Mr. Farfsing responded that one-half of the funding would come from the City of Los Angeles, with the remaining costs distributed by formula to the remaining cities.

Member Dobson asked what the cause of the presence of toxic metals in the river. Mr. Farfsing replied that most of it is coming out of air pollution, while other sources are copper from vehicle brakes and zinc from tire dust.

Member Wilson asked why the standard for the river water is more stringent than for drinking water. Mr. Farfsing responded that the level of toxicity for fish is lower than it is for people.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nordbak, seconded by Member Du Bois, to approve the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee to approve the COG's role as the fiscal administrator of the Los Angeles River Metals TMDL Special Studies and Compliance Monitoring Activities, and to approve the Implementation Agreement to be forwarded to the participating cities. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report on the COG's Homeless Initiative with the County of Los Angeles. He said that his purpose was to share with the Board the letter that the COG had received from the County committing funding to the COG to pursue a plan to provide homeless services in the subregion. He said that \$150,000 will be advanced for the purpose of creating a specific regional plan. Upon approval by the County of the plan, annual funding of \$1.2 million would be provided to the COG and the subregion to provide programs. The Executive Director said that members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness had toured the homeless facilities in Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Bell. He said that the City Managers Steering Committee had established a subcommittee, consisting of Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham and Long Beach Assistant City Manager Chris Shippey, to study the issue of providing services to the homeless. The Executive Director said that he wanted to give recognition to Supervisors Knabe and Molina, who worked together to

provide the funding for the COG for this purpose.

Immediate Past President Nordbak asked if the City of Whittier wished to start a homeless program would it go to the COG or the County for funding. The Executive Director responded that the plan to be developed will determine that.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nordbak, seconded by Member Du Bois, to receive and file the report and to authorize the COG to prepare a Request for Proposals for the development of the regional plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, presented a report on the activities of SCAG. He said that the SCAG General Assembly would be held the following day at the Los Angeles Biltmore. He announced an upcoming program regarding the recent state bond issues.

Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities, presented a legislative update. She said that most cities had sent in opposition letters to SB 303, which would require agencies to pre-zone their housing needs for the next ten years. Cities would have to approve any project that met density requirements even if it did not meet other requirements of the general plan. She said the bill had been significantly amended, but that League staff had not yet studied the amendments.

Member Carroll asked about the status of SB 964, which would restrict the communication between a city manager and his city council. Ms. Guerrero said that the author had agreed to change the bill to make it less restrictive on communications.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Du Bois, for the COG to oppose SB 303. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority. She said that the Carmenita bridge design was about complete, and that the EIR/EIS for the segment of the project from the Orange County line to I-605 should be in circulation soon.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

Debra Reed presented a report from the South Coast AQMD. She said that the date for adoption of the Air Quality Management Plan had been moved to June 1<sup>st</sup>. She reported on the International Asthma Conference that was held the previous week. She said that the Governor had been the keynote speaker. She distributed a flyer regarding the Clean Air awards and encouraged nominations.

She said that there are still upcoming events for the lawn mower exchange program.

Member Wilson reported that there was no meeting of the Conservancy Committee in April.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that consultant selection for the EIR/EIS was close to being finalized. He said that safety barriers are being constructed on the freeway as a short-term solution. He said that innovative asphalt was being installed in a number of locations, and that some sound wall projects were moving forward. He referred the Board to a map provided by Caltrans showing the locations of these improvements.

Member Pedroza said that his city has been asking Caltrans to respond to the lack of landscaping on the freeway. The Executive Director said that a motion by the Board of Directors would do a lot of good. It was moved by Member Pedroza, seconded by Immediate Past President Nordbak, to send a letter asking Caltrans to install additional landscaping on the I-710 freeway. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that consultant studies funded by the MTA were underway. He said that any community participation that would be undertaken would be conducted through the cities.

Member Dobson asked the Executive Director if he would be contacting the city managers. He responded that he had already done so. Immediate Past President Nordbak said that the consultants will need to talk to the trash haulers about their travel patterns on I-605.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that MTA is proposing to raise fares for the first time since 1994, and that a lot of comment is expected. She said there will be a number of forums regarding the fare increase, including one at the Gateway Cities Sector offices in Downey. She referred the Board members to the proposed fares as shown in the agenda packets.

Member Aguirre asked why the MTA would want ridership to go down by raising the fares. The Transportation Deputy replied that past experience shows that ridership eventually recovers. She said the issue is that fares presently cover 24% of the cost of operating the system.

Immediate Past President Nordbak said that the Board needs to tell the MTA that the fare increases are too high because they penalize the people who most need the transportation. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nordbak,

seconded by Member Aguirre, to have the COG send a letter of opposition to the proposed fare increases to the MTA.

MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager Alex Clifford said that the MTA has a \$100 million deficit in operations and that there is a need to find a way to bridge the gap or they will be faced with massive service cuts. He estimated that they would be faced with cutting 750,000 hours, or the equivalent of 35 lines. He said that he suggested that rather than opposing fares to look at ways to protect the region from service cuts.

Immediate Past President Nordbak said that the rates being proposed are not acceptable. He said that the fact that there has been no increase since 1994 is reflective of bad management.

First Vice President Guerrero asked if it were true that the MTA had just added lines. Mr. Clifford responded that the MTA had added lines, but that it is always a zero sum game in that there were cuts in other areas.

Immediate Past President Nordbak said that he would amend his motion to state that the COG oppose increases in the fares for monthly, student, and senior citizen passes, and that there be no cutbacks in service. Member Pedroza seconded the motion as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy reported that, in addition to the fare increases, the Transportation Committee had discussed the letter sent regarding the Congestion Management Fee. She said that the MTA was not pleased with the proposal, but said that it would look into it. She said that the MTA Call for Projects would be out on May 4<sup>th</sup> and posted on the website by May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Transportation Deputy reported that announcements of a vacancy for a non-public sector member of the Gateway Cities Sector Council had been issued.

Member Stefenhagen announced that the EDD Veterans Job Fair would be held at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex.

There were no matters from the President.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:10 p.m.