

**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
October 3, 2007**

First Vice President Bayer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: First Vice President Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Second Vice President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Immediate Past President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Laura Lee, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Ron Beilke, City of Pico Rivera
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier

ABSENT: President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Oscar Hernandez, City of Bell
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member John Heckerman, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Member Jeff Siccama, City of Montebello
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member Kerry Cartwright, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; Downey Director of Public Works Desi Alvarez; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Tom Modica; Downey Assistant to the City Manager Scott Pomrehn; Commerce Senior Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry R. Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Second Vice President Stefenhagen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

The Executive Director reported that the COG is focusing on the SCAG Regional Transportation Plan. He said it is critical that the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 projects be included in the RTP process. He reported that the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee would be meeting the following evening.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Nordbak, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

The report on the 2008 SCAG Regional Transportation Plan was deferred to later in the meeting because the presenter from SCAG had not yet arrived at the meeting.

The Executive Director presented a report regarding the request of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to amend the COG Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to increase the representation of the County on the COG Board of Directors from one seat to a maximum of three seats. He said that the County presently pays a small amount of base dues, but contributes to the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 projects. He pointed out that much of the County's involvement with the COG is through the fact that the supervisors sit as members of the MTA Board of Directors. He said other County involvement with the COG included the contribution made for the current initiative regarding a plan for homeless services in the COG subregion. In exchange for the additional seats on the Board, the County is willing to pay an additional \$53,000 in base dues.

The General Counsel said that the biggest single issue in the proposed JPA amendment is the increase in County seats on the Board of Directors from one to three. He said the amendment allows the Board of Supervisors to select which one of their members would occupy the seat that the County holds on the COG Executive Committee. He said that the amended JPA includes clean up language to bring the JPA into conformity with the COG Bylaws, which have been previously amended to create the additional offices of Second Vice President and Immediate Past President of the Board. He said the amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement would not become effective until ratified by a majority of the member city councils of the COG.

Member Nordbak expressed concern that the amended JPA does not expressly limit the number of seats on the Executive Committee that can be held by the County to one. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Lee, to amend the language in the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to clarify that the at large members of the Executive Committee must come from the city representatives. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Dunton, to send the amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to the cities for ratification. The motion was approved unanimously.

Members Aguirre and Lee left the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The General Counsel announced that there was no longer a quorum of the Board of Directors, but that a quorum of the Executive Committee was present and that the meeting could continue as a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report seeking an endorsement by the COG for inclusion of an earmark in the proposed State bond measure for a Gateway Cities Beach Protection, Environmental Restoration, and Urban Runoff Management Program in the amount of \$75 million. He said the funds would be used to establish programs to monitor and improve water quality in the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles rivers and their estuaries, as well as programs to remove pollutants from runoff, combined with programs to capture, reuse, and infiltrate.

Member Nordbak said that some of the money should be designated for use by cities to clean up already polluted water supplies. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to support the inclusion of an earmark for the Beach Protection, Environmental Restoration, and Urban Runoff Management Program, with the inclusion of the amendment suggested by Immediate Past President Nordbak. The motion was approved unanimously.

Naresh Amatya, SCAG Program Manager, gave a presentation regarding the 2008 SCAG Regional Transportation Plan. He explained that the RTP is mandated by the federal government and is required to be eligible for federal funding. He said it is also a tool to help the region comply with air quality mandates. He said the RTP is updated every three years to address changes in growth forecasts, project costs, project priorities, federal mandates, and air quality plans. He described the challenges facing

the SCAG region, including traffic congestion, population growth, increase in cargo trade through the ports, and remaining in air quality conformance. He announced upcoming workshops pertaining to the RTP.

The Executive Director referred to a letter from the Orange County Council of Governments expressing concern that there be enough time to consider the Regional Transportation Plan separate from the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Member Wilson asked what distinguishes goods movement from traffic, highways, and rail. Mr. Amatya replied that there is obvious overlap, but that it makes sense to isolate goods movement because of the economic impact on the region and the funding opportunities separate from highways in general.

The Executive Director referred to a matrix on the RTP Workshop of Goods Movement Strategies which illustrates how very serious the RTP is to the subregion. He said the \$30 million in funding for the I-710 EIR/EIS could be in jeopardy if it is not included in the Constrained Plan. He said that we need to remain vigilant that it remain in the Plan. Mr. Amatya responded that everything is going in the direction of the staff recommendation that the funding for the I-710 EIR/EIS remain the Constrained Plan.

Member Nordbak asked how a comprehensive plan for goods movement could not include the I-710 project. Mr. Amatya replied that everything relies on the approval of the SCAG Regional Council.

Member Lowenthal expressed concern that, if only the truck portion of the I-710 project is contained in the plan, long combination vehicles could be included. Mr. Amatya said that long combination vehicles did not come up in the discussions on the plan, but that they need to be considered as a funding option. Member Lowenthal said that she thought it was important to repeat the COG's opposition to long combination vehicles. She said that, even with truck lanes, the long combination vehicles need to get off and on the freeways. Member Wilson said that he agreed that the COG as a body opposed triple trailers. He said there is no way to strictly limit them to truck lanes. Member Lowenthal asked Mr. Amatya to bring back to SCAG the message that the COG opposes long combination vehicles. Mr. Amatya agreed that long combination vehicles would need staging facilities when getting on or off truck lanes.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to maintain the COG's policy of opposition to long combination vehicles. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, reported that the SCAG Regional Council and policy committees would be conducting a joint workshop the next day. It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities, referred the Board to a flyer announcing a seminar regarding the proper advocacy on ballot measures. She gave an update on two ballot measures regarding eminent domain which are currently in the signature gathering stage. One ballot measure, supported by the League of Cities, is aimed at protecting homes. The other measure is sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and included provisions similar to the recent Proposition 90, which would have dismantled land use authority for cities. She announced that there would be a meeting of the City Selection Committee the next day and that they needed a quorum to be in attendance. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member O'Donnell to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Beilke presented a report from the California Contract Cities Association. He said that the next meeting will occur in the City of Pico Rivera. It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The COG Transportation Deputy presented a report from the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority. She said that the Carmenita Rd. project plans were 95% complete and that a substantial cost overrun had been identified. It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He said that CARB had adopted the Air Quality Plan for the South Coast basin and that it is being submitted to the U.S. EPA for approval. He said the focus is on mobile sources, particularly modernizing the truck fleet. He said the Plan asks EPA to reduce locomotive emissions. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member O'Donnell presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said the major topic before the Conservancy Board was the new grant guidelines for Proposition 84. He said approximately \$37 million would be available in two tiers, with the second tier coming in January 2009. He said that the Board had selected him as its representative to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the next meeting of the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee would be moving from October 31st to another date.

The Executive Director reported that the next meeting of the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee would be held on October 18th at 6:30 p.m.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by First Vice President Bayer at 7:15 p.m.