

**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
November 7, 2007**

President Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
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 Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
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 Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier

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 Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Ramon Rodriguez, City of Lynwood
Member Jeff Siccama, City of Montebello
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Kirk Cartozian, Councilmember, City of Downey; Larry Forester, Councilmember, City of Signal Hill; Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; La Mirada Director of Public

Works Steve Forster; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Tom Modica; Commerce Senior Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Roy Choi, I-710 EIR/EIS Project Manager, Metro; Adrian Alvarez, I-710 Project Administrator, Metro; Gerardo Alvarez, I-710 Project Controls Coordinator, Metro; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Sector; Michael Sieckert, Planning Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Sector; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Al Perdon, Executive Director, Orangeline Development Authority; Nancy Pfeffer, President, Network Public Affairs; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry R. Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

President Guerrero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Beilke, to accept the agenda as posted. The motion was approved unanimously.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Dobson, 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.

President Guerrero reported that First Vice President Bayer, Second Vice President Stefenhagen, and she had met with staff to review the COG's priorities. She referred the Board to the overview of the COG priorities produced by the executive officers and contained in the agenda packet. She reviewed the executive officers' recommended prioritization of projects and goals within the COG's four primary mission categories of transportation, housing, air quality, and economic development.

Member Lowenthal said that she appreciated the presentation of the COG priorities and said that she would like to see them presented in a grid format. She said she was concerned about where the Orangeline Maglev project was placed in the transportation category because of its potential impact on the funding of other priority transportation projects.

It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Gurule, to approve the COG priorities as outlined by the executive officers and presented by President Guerrero,

with the exception of the priority placement of the Orangeline Maglev project, which will be assigned a priority order by the Board of Directors after the Board has completed its consideration of the request for support by the Orangeline Development Authority of its proposal and application to the California Transportation Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director introduced the request from the Orangeline Development Authority for a resolution of support of the Authority's proposal and application to the California Transportation Commission. He referred the Board to its previous adopted priority ranking of projects as being, in order, the I-5, the I-710, and the SR-91/I-605/I-405. He said that it is a policy determination for the Board as to whether sufficient consensus exists to advance funding advocacy for the Orangeline Maglev project at this time.

Kirk Cartozian, Chairman of the Orangeline Development Authority, addressed the Board regarding the request from the Authority. He described the Orangeline Maglev project and said that issues such as the membership of the City of Los Angeles and the right of way for the proposed alignment were being faced by the Authority. He said that the City of Santa Ana had become the second Orange County city to join the Authority. He said that the project is as much an economic development project as it is a transportation project, particularly as it would encourage transit oriented development. He said that Maglev is a proven technology in China and Germany, as well as in a test track in Japan. There would be eighteen stations, in locations to be determined, along the Orangeline Maglev route. He said only Maglev can get to the average speed needed to meet the ridership model that makes the project financially feasible. He emphasized that it is a regional project and that fourteen cities are currently members of the authority. He asked for the Board's support of their request.

Member Lowenthal asked to hear from the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the Orangeline Authority's request.

Ken Farfsing, Chairman of the City Managers Steering Committee, said that not all managers were surveyed, but that the managers who met on the subject had three concerns:

1. Project priorities have been established and those on top are the ones that have consensus support. These are huge projects that will take many years to complete. There is concern that the Orangeline could "leapfrog" the other projects.
2. The Orangeline Maglev project must move through a complicated regional planning process. It has not been endorsed by the two counties involved or the Orange County COG. We don't know where the Orange County Transportation Commission or the City of Los Angeles stands on the project. The Federal Transportation Administration has requested a private funding letter, which has not yet been received. A recent letter from Senator Feinstein stated that Congress had reduced the availability of earmarks and listed conditions for federal funding that the Orangeline has not met.

3. The COG should first receive a report from the California Transportation Commission as to what would be the impact of the Orangeline request on funding for other projects. The COG Executive Director should meet with the COG's Sacramento lobbyist and staff of the California Transportation Commission to determine this.

Immediate Past President Nelson said that he supported the recommendation that the Executive Director meet with the COG's Sacramento lobbyist and the CTC staff.

Orangeline Development Authority Chairman Cartozian said that the project has the support of Assemblyman Hector De La Torre and Senator Alan Lowenthal.

Member Lowenthal said that this is a very challenging issue. She said her concern is that we are facing such a funding shortfall in Sacramento that it will affect our cities and our other projects, as cited by Mr. Farfing. She said that she needs more answers before she can support the request from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said that we need to know where the City of Los Angeles and Orange County Transportation Commission stand first; otherwise it would be fiscally imprudent.

Member Wilson said that the COG has been very supportive of the Orangeline over the years and will be in the future. He said it needs to be behind other projects on the priority list. It's just not our number one priority. He said we need to stick with our priority list.

Member Daniels said that there is no doubt that the Orangeline is a valid vision. He said that he thinks what he is hearing is that we shouldn't do anything that would jeopardize the funding of our other projects. He said he believes it is a good project, but he doesn't want to jeopardize the other projects.

Member Gurule said that he is a member of the Orangeline Development Authority Board and has put a lot of time into it. He said when push comes to shove we are all going after the same dollars. He said the Orangeline Maglev project is a worthy project and he wouldn't want to jeopardize it. It's just not on the top of the priority list.

Member Daniels said that the Orangeline Maglev project would be put on the SCAG Regional Transportation Plan's strategic list, but not as part of the financially constrained plan.

The Executive Director asked the Transportation Deputy to report on the last workshop on the SCAG RTP. The Transportation Deputy said that a federal attorney had stated that a project of this type needs a private funding letter before it can be included in the strategic plan.

Al Perdon, Executive Director of the Orangeline Development Authority, said that he would ask the indulgence of the Board that he be permitted to talk to the City Managers Steering Committee. He said that there is some misinformation and lack of information. He said that he doesn't see the project conflicting with the other COG priority projects. He said that the issue of the RTP is very important, but that it is not

really correct that a public/private partnership letter is required.

Mr. Perdon said that the Orangeline project was kicked off by the Gateway Cities COG. He said that to ask other agencies for support without that of the COG would send the signals that they don't really have the support of their own COG. He said that three Maglev projects are included in the constrained plan, all from Ontario, which would like to see the Orangeline disappear. He said he would like to meet with the city managers to explain why this project does not compete with the COG's priorities. He said that he has met with senior representatives from the investment industry who ask if the government side is in support of the project.

Member Hurtado said that he wants to make sure that the action taken by the Board is not interpreted as opposing the Orangeline project.

Member Daniels asked Mr. Perdon if he is asking that the Board delay taking action until he first has the opportunity to meet with the city managers. Mr. Perdon replied that he is.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Lowenthal: 1) that the Board's officers and the COG's Executive Director meet with the COG's Sacramento lobbyist to determine what impact placing the Orangeline Development Authority's proposal into the COG's priority projects would have on the funding of the other priority COG projects and how the project would be viewed by the California Transportation Commission and CTC staff; 2) that the City Managers Steering Committee be directed to meet with the Executive Director of the Orangeline Development Authority in order to give him the opportunity to explain why the Orangeline Development Authority's proposal would not compete with the COG's other priority projects; and 3) defer action on the request for support by the Orangeline Development Authority of its proposal and application to the California Transportation Commission until these meetings have taken place and a report is made to the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, reported that the SCAG had held a series of meetings regarding the Regional Transportation Plan. Because of the debate, release of the draft RTP was being delayed until after the November 27th meeting at SCAG. He said that funding for projects has to be identified over the 30-year life of the Plan. The goal is to put out a plan after the December 6th action of the Transportation and Communications Committee and to come back to the Regional Council in the early spring. The Plan must be fiscally constrained in that it has specifically identified funding sources. He referred the Board to an announcement of an upcoming wireless technology conference. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority. She said that Caltrans and the JPA are working on a segmenting and sequencing study for the length of the project from the Orange County line to I-605. She said that there is support for starting on the south end. She said that she is working with Caltrans on down scoping the Carmenita Rd. project because of the identified funding shortfall. She said the environmental study for the segment from I-605 to I-710 should kick off shortly. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no additional 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 the Port of Long Beach had voted on Monday to join the Port of Los Angeles to ban the oldest diesel trucks from entering the ports and to approve a tariff which will reduce pollution from drayage trucks by over 80% over five years. He said that federal legislation on marine vessels was going to committee in the Senate. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alex Clifford, General Manager of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, presented a report on sector activities. He said that twice a year (June and December) Metro makes changes in service and that the Governance Council had voted to eliminate some service duplication with Norwalk Transit. He said that the line from downtown to Disneyland would be moving off the freeway because of construction on I-5. He said that they are anticipating that the budget will result in 215 fewer service hours in the coming year. It is a significant issue because of the potential elimination of one line.

Member Nordbak asked if there would also be cutbacks in management. Mr. Clifford responded that there have been reductions behind the scenes. Member Nordbak asked for a report on what the other cuts have been. Immediate Past President Nelson said that he would appreciate it if Mr. Clifford would provide a map when talking about which lines may be cut. He said another issue is parking at the Artesia Blvd. station of the Metro Blue Line. He said the nearby casino had eliminated use of its parking lot, causing the loss of fifty parking spaces.

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said there been no meeting in October, but that a workshop had been held for potential grant applicants. The deadline for submittal of grant applications is November 21st. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Nordbak, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee.

There was no report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee.

The Transportation Deputy reported that the Transportation Committee did not have a quorum at its meeting. She said that the Congestion Mitigation Fee report is out and that a meeting regarding the report would be scheduled. It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Immediate Past President Nelson asked that all members remember Veterans Day.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Guerrero at 7:07 p.m.