

**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 5, 2008**

President Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

PRESENT: President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Second Vice President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Immediate Past President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Jim Edwards, City of Cerritos
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Victor Farfan, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
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 William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier

ABSENT: First Vice President Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Oscar Hernandez, City of Bell
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Robert Urteaga, City of Montebello
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Connie Sziebl, Field Deputy for Supervisor Don Knabe; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; David Tokofsky, City of Bell; Hamid Nasser, Caltrans District 7; Shefa Bhwyan, Senior Planner, Caltrans; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Juan Camacho, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Diego Cardoso, Executive Officer, Metro; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Michelle Smith, Project Manager, Metro; Shahrzad Amiri, Metro; Philbert Wong, Transportation Planning Manager, Metro; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Sector; Michael Sieckert, Metro Gateway Cities Planning Manager; David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Alina Bokde, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; J.J. Hoffman, Ride Coordinator, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition; Tom Choe, Principal, System Metrics Group; Yu-Ying Chu, Senior Associate, System Metrics Group; Sam Morrissey, Associate-in-Charge, Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; 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 Nordbak, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

COG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood reported on meetings that Board Member Hurtado, Long Beach Councilmember Gary De Long, and he had with congressional representatives in Washington. He referred to the presentation on the Southern California Freight Movement Corridor that they had made to the congressional representatives. He said that Congressmen Oberstar and Rohrabacher were very impressed that 60 cities are collaborating on the need to have a non-freeway freight movement corridor. Member Hurtado said that they received a very favorable response from the congressional representatives. He commended Jerry Wood for the job he did in telling the goods movement story of the Gateway Cities.

Mr. Wood reported on a meeting with the San Gabriel Valley COG regarding a cooperative transportation planning initiative involving the two COGs, SCAG, MTA, and Cal State Long Beach. He said the purpose was to talk about the two COGs collaborating on issues of freight movement. He said that they had agreed to move forward together and that next month he will have a more full report.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Davis, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Hamid Nasser, Caltrans District 7, reported that Caltrans and its consultant team, System Metrics Group, were developing a Corridor System Management Plan, including stakeholder comments on the Plan, to fulfill Proposition 1B requirements to make the I-5 Corridor eligible to receive Proposition 1B funds. He said that pilot projects were taking place on the I-210, I-405, and I-110 corridors, as well. He introduced Tom Choe, Principal of System Metrics Group, who reported on the details of the study, which examined peak traffic congestion times, speeds, and accident rates on the I-5 Corridor.

Member Nordbak asked how much had been budgeted for this study. Mr. Choe said that it was done on a time and materials basis. Member Nordbak said that there were no answers in the study that weren't already known. Mr. Choe said that there had been a similar reaction at the meeting with the I-5 Corridor JPA. He said this study was supposed to quantify costs for future Caltrans projects. Member Daniels asked how long this study has been going on. Mr. Choe replied that it has been seven months long. Member Daniels said that too much money has been spent on repetitive studies.

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

Shahzad Amiri, Los Angeles County MTA, gave a power point presentation regarding the Multi County Goods Movement Action Plan. She introduced Sam Morrissey of Wilbur Smith Associates, who had assisted in the study. Ms. Amiri described the core mandates to be: mitigate environmental and health impacts; promote safe and efficient movement of all transportation modes; ensure the economic well being of the region; secure the region's fair share of funding. She described the modes of freight movement in the region, with only 20% being solely by rail, the remaining 80% being at least partially by truck. She said that stakeholder comments on the draft Action Plan would continue to be received until March 17, with release of the final Plan in April.

Member DuBois asked how the Plan was circulated to receive stakeholder comments. Ms. Ariri said that the comment solicitation was done through the COGs and the project partners, Caltrans and the county transportation commissions. She said that comments had been received from the Gateway Cities COG. President Guerrero asked who had responded on behalf of the COG. Ms. Ariri responded that the Executive Director had submitted comments. She said that the City of Long Beach had also submitted comments.

Member Wilson asked how this ties in with the cooperative effort with the San Gabriel Valley COG. Jerry Wood replied that it dovetails with the COG's recommendation of non-freeway options for movement of freight. Member DuBois said that, if the truck lanes had been put into place that were originally part of the plan for the Alameda Corridor, some of today's problems would have been addressed. Mr. Wood said that

we are correcting that with what we have learned through the I-710 Major Corridor Study.

Immediate Past President Nelson asked how Long Beach knew to send a letter, but not the rest of the cities. Ms. Amiri, Metro, responded that the City of Long Beach was a study group member. Ken Farfsing, Chair of the City Managers Steering Committee, said that the study had been before the COG Transportation Committee four or five times and that reports were made to the Board of Directors. He said the draft Plan now incorporates about 95% of what the COG's concerns are. Ms. Ariri said that they will be doing a micro level analysis (below the COG level) later.

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

Member Wilson presented a request from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for a resolution in support of the 8th Annual Los Angeles River Ride. He said that this gives the COG the opportunity to act with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. He introduced Alina Bokde, Deputy Executive Director of the Conservancy, who, in turn, introduced J. J. Hoffman of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, who is the coordinator of the Bike Ride. Ms. Hoffman briefly described the event, which will be held on June 8, 2008. Ms. Bokde said that letters will be going out to the cities along the Los Angeles River asking that they provide volunteers and make banners for display along the route.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to approve the resolution supporting the 8th Annual Los Angeles River Ride. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nancy Pfeffer, COG Director of Regional Planning, presented a report on the 2008 SCAG Regional Transportation Plan. She said that she wished to update the Board on two items. First, regarding the population forecast, she said that the COG had supported using the baseline forecast in the Plan, but the draft instead reflects the policy forecast. She said the decision on which forecast to use would be made tomorrow at the SCAG policy committee meetings. Second, she said that the City of Los Angeles shared the COG's discomfort with the talk of a spur of the proposed high speed rail transit system to the Port of Long Beach. She said that the Executive Director had expressed the COG's concerns at a committee meeting of the Los Angeles City Council.

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

The Deputy Executive Director presented a status report on the payment of member dues and assessments. He said that all members were now current on their basic COG dues and assessments, with the exception of the County of Los Angeles. He said that this was because the COG had held off invoicing the County pending approval of the

amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement which increases the County's membership on the Board of Directors and substantially increases the dues payment from the County. He said that the invoice to the County had just recently been sent out. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Nordbak, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Carroll said that he would like the Board to establish a subcommittee to look at the COG dues structure and asked if it would be appropriate to take that up at this time. The General Counsel said that it was not a subject listed on the evening's agenda and would need to be brought back at a future meeting. Member Carroll asked that it be placed on next month's agenda.

The Deputy Executive Director presented a report on the Board member stipends for attendance at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. He said that the consensus at last month's meeting appeared to be that the stipend be increased from \$100 per meeting to \$125. He said that such an increase could be supported in the budget without an impact on member dues because of the significant increase in the dues level from the County of Los Angeles under the amended JPA.

Member Wilson said that he noted that the staff report indicated that the COG's independent auditor had concurred that the COG should issue W-2s rather than 1099s to the Board members for their stipends. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member DuBois, that the COG issue annual W-2s to the Board members for the annual stipend income. The motion was approved, with Member Carroll opposed.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Beltran, to increase the monthly meeting stipend for the Board of Directors to \$125. The Deputy Executive Director asked for clarification as to whether the increase would take effect immediately. The General Counsel said that it would be normal practice for the increase to become effective concurrent with the new budget on July 1, 2008. Member Daniels said that he would concur with that recommendation and make it part of his motion. Member Beltran concurred as the second to the motion. The motion was approved with Member Carroll and Member Nordbak opposed.

The Deputy Executive Director presented a status report on the Gateway Cities Clean Air Program. He said that the ports had issued a Request for Qualifications from parties interested in administering the Clean Trucks Program portion of the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan and that the COG had responded with a statement of qualifications to administer the program. He said that the COG was optimistic that it would be chosen to administer the program based on the six year track record of the Gateway Cities Clean Air Program. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Juan Camacho, SCAG Member Relations Officer, referred to the brochure he distributed which included highlights of the SCAG Regional Transportation Plan. He said that next month the Chair of the SCAG Transportation and Communication

Committee would be making a presentation to the Board regarding the RTP. He referred the Board to the Regional Transportation Summit to be held on March 20th. Immediate Past President Nelson asked Mr. Camacho what the Force for Change Committee is. Mr. Camacho replied that the Committee is set up to look at restructuring the Regional Council and the SCAG committees. Immediate Past President Nelson said that there was talk about restructuring the SCAG Executive Committee and that it sounded like it would be pared down to a small group, leaving out the smaller cities.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said that the first round of Proposition 1B funding was being sent out to the cities. She asked that cities report to her how they are using the 1B funds. She said that the State's budget problems were causing a delay in the payment of gas tax revenues to cities. She said that the Legislative Analyst's Office had proposed cuts in funding to cities in COPS, Proposition 172, and booking fees funding. She said that there would be competing propositions (98 and 99) regarding eminent domain on the June ballot. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

Yvette Kirin, Executive Director of the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority, presented a report on the I-5 project. She said that the environmental effort on the segment from I-605 to I-710 had commenced with limited funding. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

David Madson, Senior Public Information Specialist presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He thanked the COG for issuing a letter of support to the Air Resources Board supporting maximum goods movement reduction funding. He said CARB had approved that 55% of the funding go to the Los Angeles/Inland Empire region. He said that the plan for the Vernon power plant is being reviewed by the California Energy Commission and that there is not yet a timeline on when its report will be coming out. He said that the Air District will be conducting a CEQA review, to be finished in the spring, and that the Energy Commission is the lead agency. Mr. Madson said that the federal Marine Vessels Emissions Act will be voted on soon. He passed out literature on upcoming hearings on air toxics studies. It was moved by Member Davis, seconded by Member Nordbak, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alex Clifford, General Manager of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, said that he will be presenting the findings regarding proposed service level changes to the Sector Governance Council. He said changes came about as a result of the public comments process. 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 that the RMC Board did not meet in February, but that a grand opening of the new RMC offices in the Azusa foothills had been held. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the project had kicked off in a big way and that there will be a lot of activity soon. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the Sr-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that a Technical Advisory Committee meeting would be held following the completion of the current study in the next two months. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy, presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the Committee had heard a presentation on the technologies that may have a use in the goods movement corridor. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Hurtado reported that he had run in the Los Angeles Marathon for the third time.

President Guerrero congratulated Member Daniels for being elected Mayor of Paramount again.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Guerrero at 8:01 p.m.