

**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  
April 2, 2008**

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 George Mirabal, City of Bell  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Jim Edwards, City of Cerritos  
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce  
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 Pete Dames, City of La Mirada  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach  
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood  
Member Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello  
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  
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier

**ABSENT:** Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon  
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens  
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach  
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood  
Member William Davis, City of Vernon  
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cerritos Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Barrows; Connie Sziebl, Field Deputy for Supervisor Don Knabe; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing;

Commerce Senior Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Assistant Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mohstakami; Ontario Councilmember Alan Wapner, Chair of SCAG Transportation and Communication Committee; Juan Camacho, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Brad McAllester, Executive Officer, Long Range Planning, Metro; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Stacy Alameida, Transportation Planning Manager, Metro; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Sector; Michael Sieckert, Metro Gateway Cities Planning Manager; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Debra Reed, Public Affairs, SCAQMD; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Al Perdon, Executive Director, Orangeline Development Authority; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry R. Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

President Guerrero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Dobson, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

The Executive Director summarized the federal appropriations requests that the COG has submitted or that other agencies have submitted with COG support. He said that the COG is also seeking additional funding from the MTA to continue the OCTA/MTA Inter-county Transportation Study. Member Hurtado asked if the projects were listed in any priority order. The Executive Director replied that they were listed in random order.

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

Ontario Councilmember Alan Wapner, Chair of SCAG Transportation and Communication Committee, presented an update on the Draft 2008 SCAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He said that SCAG was supposed to have approved the draft plan by now, but that the timeline had been extended by 30 days. He said comments are still being received through the middle of April, with adoption by the Regional Council scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>. He said that some projects are still undetermined and will be voted on by the Transportation and Communication Committee. Adoption of a 30 year plan in the RTP is required for environmental conformity under federal rules.

Councilmember Wapner explained that the TRP must meet all financial constraints. He said the region's current conformity with federal rules expires on June 8<sup>th</sup>. If it expires with no new plan in place, no more federal funding will flow to the region. The Draft RTP is a \$569 billion plan. The Constrained Plan is limited by the resources available. Projects included in the Strategic Plan require further study. He said one of the financial constraints is that, as cars get better mileage, gas tax revenues decrease.

Councilmember Wapner reported that the Draft RTP includes additions of 17 HOV lanes and connectors and 17 mixed flow lanes to the region's freeways; the I-710 gap closure; extension of the Green Line to LAX; container fees to help fund goods movement projects; truck lanes for alternative technology from the ports to SR-60; high speed rail from LAX to San Bernardino; and additional freight corridors from the ports to the initial operating segment of the high speed rail system. He said that the Orangeline is being studied and will be debated tomorrow at the Transportation and Communication Committee meeting. With regard to the Constrained Plan, Councilmember Wapner said that 51% of the funding comes from the local sales tax. He said there is a 27% gap in the funding, which is proposed to come from user fees, private equity partnerships, and state and federal excise taxes.

Member Hurtado expressed concern about the impact that new projects will have upon the COG's priority projects. He expressed particular concern about the proposed freight corridor spur from the proposed high speed rail system to the ports. Councilmember Wapner replied that the problem is that MTA has not yet adopted its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP and The RTP must be in conformity with each other.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Aguirre, that the COG send a letter to member cities of the initial operating segment of the High Speed Rail Transport System asking that any study of a freight movement corridor from the San Pedro Bay ports to the mid-city rail yards be confined to the I-710 EIR/EIS process currently underway. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director said that the spur was added for revenue purposes, but that there is no representation on the initial operating segment (IOS) by Gateway Cities. Councilmember Wapner responded that the IOS joint powers agreement provides that only cities that have proposed stops on the IOS are voting members: Los Angeles, West Covina, and Ontario.

Brad McAllester, MTA Executive Officer for Long Range Planning, gave a presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He said that the new LRTP is the first one since 2001 and is due to go to the MTA Board of Directors for adoption in June. He summarized the four themes of the LRTP as being mobility, affect on the environment, goods movement, and funding. He said funding is the largest challenge. Mr. McAllester said that there would be a community meeting in Paramount in April and that the comment period would run through April 25<sup>th</sup>. It was moved by Member Dobson,

seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Lowenthal left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

President Guerrero introduced the agenda item regarding the request from the City of La Habra Heights that a committee be appointed to examine the COG's dues structure. Member Carroll said that he had requested that such a committee be appointed to examine the COG dues. President Guerrero asked which board members were interested in serving on the committee. Second Vice President Stefenhagen and Members Dunton and Carroll volunteered to serve on the committee. Connie Sziebl said that the County would also like to have a representative on the committee. Member Nordbak said that he thought Member Lowenthal would like to serve on the committee. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Nordbak, to form a committee to examine the COG's dues structure. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ken Farfsing, Chair of the City Managers Steering Committee, presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee concerning the proposed MTA Congestion Management Fee. He said that the Congestion Management Fee was being proposed by MTA to replace the existing "credits and debits" system. He said the concern of the managers is that the Gateway Cities subregion would not receive a "fair share" return of the fee revenues.

Mr. Farfsing cited several issues regarding the proposed fee:

- The fee study does not adequately examine the impacts and benefits of the fee in older, built-out areas of the county;
- There is concern about the SCAG growth forecasts that are the foundation for projecting growth;
- The flat countywide fee may act as a deterrent to development in more economically challenged areas;
- The study does not specifically address the possibility of smaller jurisdictions contributing to approved local projects of regional significance outside of the city boundaries;
- The study is silent with regard to administrative costs for accelerated financing mechanisms such as bond sales;
- There is no assurance to developers that CEQA mandated mitigations will also meet the test for the CMP fee;
- Cities would be refused their gas tax funds if they do not adopt the fee;
- Cities would be required to hold local "protest hearings" when adopting these fees.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to approve the City Managers Steering Committee's comments and to forward them to the MTA. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

Yvette Kirin, Executive Director of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority, presented a report on the I-5 project. She said that Caltrans anticipates construction of the Carmenita Road interchange to begin in January 2010. She requested a letter of support from the COG for funding for this project. She said that Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard had taken the lead in seeking funding for the I-605 to I-710 segment of the project. Ms. Kirin asked for letters of support for this effort, as well. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Hurtado, to send the letters of support requested by the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. The motion was approved unanimously.

Al Perdon, Executive Director of the Orangeline Development Authority, reported that the Authority had sponsored an investor development conference in Sacramento. He said that positive comments were received from the Governor's Office and Caltrans Director Will Kempton complimenting the cities for taking the lead. He said that there was a request from the Administration for a proposal from the private sector. It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Debra Reed, South Coast Air Quality Management District, thanked the COG for supporting the legislation regarding emissions from maritime vessels. She announced that the District's lawn mower exchange program would be starting up again. She offered rides in a hydrogen vehicle for anyone who was interested. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alex Clifford, General Manager of the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector, reported that, in March, the Sector Council made several changes to the proposed service change recommendations and forwarded these to the MTA Board of Directors. It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that all of the consultant agreements had been signed and that it will be a busy year. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, 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 the preliminary report for the Major Corridor Study had been completed and will be distributed tomorrow. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the OCTA/MTA Inter-county Transportation Study recommendations will be presented on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Los Alamitos. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Daniels welcomed back Member Putnam. Member Nordbak said that the entire Santa Fe Springs community had supported Member Putnam in her recovery.

President Guerrero announced that Member Aguilar had been appointed to the League of California Executive and Legislative committees. She asked that anyone interested in taking a tour of the ports to or a tour of the Southern California Edison Customer Technology Application contact Genny Cisneros at the COG office. She welcomed new Board Members George Mirabal of Bell, Jim Edwards of Cerritos, and Kathy Salazar of Montebello.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Guerrero at 7:31 p.m.