

**GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

5:30 p. m. Buffet

6:00 p. m. Meeting

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

16401 Paramount Boulevard

Paramount, California

AGENDA

STAFF REPORTS AND OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OFFICES, 16401 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD, PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA. ANY PERSON HAVING QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANY AGENDA ITEM MAY CALL THE COG STAFF AT (562) 663-6850.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The Board of Directors will hear from the public on any item on the agenda or an item of interest that is not on the agenda. The Board of Directors cannot take action on any item not scheduled on the agenda. These items may be referred for administrative action or scheduled on a future agenda. Comments are to be limited to three minutes for each speaker, unless extended by the Board of Directors, and each speaker will only have one opportunity to speak on any one topic. You have the opportunity to address the Board of Directors at the following times:

- A. **AGENDA ITEM:** at this time the Board of Directors considers the agenda item OR during Public Comments, and
- B. **NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** during Public Comments, comments will be received for a maximum 20-minute period; any additional requests will be heard following the completion of the Board of Directors agenda; and
- C. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** at the time for public hearings.

Please keep your comments brief and complete a speaker card for the President.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL – BY SELF INTRODUCTIONS**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** - This is the time and place to change the order of the agenda, delete or add any agenda item(s).
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Three minutes for each speaker.

VI. MATTERS FROM STAFF

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR: All items under the Consent Calendar may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar and acted upon separately by the Board of Directors.

- A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 1, 2008, is presented for approval. Approval receives and files the minutes of October 1st, Board of Directors meeting.
- B. Approval of Warrant Register - Request for Approval of Warrant Register Dated November 5, 2008
- C. September 2008 Local Agency Investment Fund Statement
- D. Status Report from Lobbyist - Government Relations Consultants

CONSENT CALENDAR ACTION:
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS A THROUGH D.

VIII. REPORTS

- A. Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 - Presentation by Kimberly Yu, Metro, Project Manager

15 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF AND RECEIVE AND FILE

- B. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy Grant Program Report by Belinda Faustinos, Executive Director, RMC

15 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

- C. Report from the City Managers Steering Committee Re California Senate Bill 375 – Sustainable Community Strategy

5 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

IX. REPORTS – COMMITTEES/ AGENCIES – ALL COMMITTEE / AGENCY REPORTS ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES UNLESS ADDITIONAL TIME IS GRANTED BY THE BOARD PRESIDENT

- A. Matters from Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

B. Matters from the League of California Cities – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

C. Matters from California Contract Cities Association – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

D. Matters from The I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

E. Matters from the Orangeline Development Authority-Maglev – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

F. Matters from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

G. Matters from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF A

X. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

A. Report from the Conservancy Committee – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

B. Report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

C. Report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

- D. Report from the Transportation Committee – Oral Report
 - 1. Letter Supporting the Ban on Long-Combination Vehicles

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

XI. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

XII. MATTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- A. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra to SCAG Transportation Committee
- B. Appointment of Councilmember Gordon Stefenhagen and Councilmember Kathy Salazar to the Ad-Hoc Committee On Homelessness
- C. Vacancy on Los Angeles County League of California Cities Executive/Legislative Committee
- D. Vacancy on SCAG Policy Committee - Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: New items will not be considered after 9:00 p.m. unless the Board of Directors votes to extend the time limit. Any items on the agenda that are not completed will be forwarded to the next regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 6:00 PM.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE COG OFFICE AT (562) 663-6850. NOTIFICATION 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING WILL ENABLE THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENT TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
Item A
Approval of Minutes

**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 1, 2008**

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

PRESENT: President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
First Vice President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Second Vice President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Immediate Past President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
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 Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Gracie Gallegos-Smith, 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 William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Curt Pederson, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe

ABSENT: Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Richard Steinke, Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach
ALSO PRESENT: Norwalk Councilmember Cheri Kelley, Chair Metro Gateway

Cities Service Sector Council; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Bell Gardens Director of Public Works John Oropeza; Commerce Senior Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Long Beach Management Assistant Courtney Aguirre; Ron Fisher, Deputy, Office of Supervisor Yvonne Burke; Metro Deputy Executive Officer Ernest Morales; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Joe Carreras, Program Manager for Housing and Community Planning, Southern California Association of Governments; Alex Kenefick, Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Coordinator, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; Marian Putnam, Santa Fe Springs; GCCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCCOG Assistant General Counsel Thomas Duarte; 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.

Member Mirabal 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 he and President Bayer had represented the COG at Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities' sponsored meeting with other COGs. He said there was agreement to work with the Los Angeles County Division of the League on matters of common interest to the County's COGs.

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

Joe Carreras, Program Manager for Housing and Community Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments, gave a presentation regarding the foreclosure outlook for the Gateway Cities subregion. He said that SCAG intends to help local governments deal with foreclosure issues. He described the difference between prime and sub-prime mortgages and the trends in the mortgage industry. He said in 1998 95% of all loans were fixed rate, but by 2005 this figure was down to 50%. The sub-prime crisis is focused in the states of California, Florida, Nevada, and Arizona.

Mr. Carreras said that SCAG is working with UCLA on a land opportunity tracking system (LOTS). One third of the foreclosures are in California, with half of those located in the SCAG region. The average loss to municipalities is approximately \$7,000 per foreclosure. In 2007 housing production was at a 25-year low. He referred the Board to the SCAG website (scag.ca.gov/housing/index.html) for more information on the topic of foreclosures.

Member Hurtado asked how the HUD program on foreclosures for communities works. Mr. Carreras responded that the funds are used to purchase a home from the lender. In response to Member Hurtado's question regarding the value at which the home gets sold, Mr. Carreras replied that the homeowner is probably working out a short sale with his bank. The price is negotiated between the community and the lender.

Member Daniels said that the largest percentage of foreclosures involve those who couldn't afford the home in the first place. The one who loses money is the last one to hold the paper.

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

The Executive Director referred the Board to a letter from Member Lowenthal lending her support for the request from the South Bay and Westside Cities COGs for interim staff support for MTA Board Member Pam O'Connor until a new Board Deputy for Member O'Connor is hired. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the request of the South Bay Council of Governments and the Westside Cities Council of Governments for interim MTA Board Member support and to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter agreement with the South Bay COG providing for reimbursement to the Gateway Cities COG at the hourly rate of \$44.00 on an actual time spent basis. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing introduced the agenda item regarding SB 375, recently approved legislation regarding climate change. He said a debt of gratitude was owed the City of Lakewood for bringing this matter to the attention of cities in the COG. He said SB 375 is extremely complicated and implements AB 32 from 2006, the Global Warming Solutions Act, which called for California to roll back its carbon emissions to 1990 levels in accordance with the Kyoto protocols.

Mr. Farfsing said SB 375 affects land use policies of cities and links housing with transportation so that SCAG and MTA are involved. He said there is a short time frame to achieve air emission reductions. He said efforts taken prior to the bill's passage such as the Gateway Cities Clean Air Program and the City of Cerritos' joining with other cities to create the clean fuel Magnolia Plant would not be recognized under the legislation.

Mr. Farfsing recommended that the Board refer this issue back to the City Managers Steering Committee and to have them work with the planning directors and public works officers to develop a recommended approach. He said he would like to pursue hiring a consultant to devise strategies to deal with SB 375.

Nancy Pfeffer, Director of Regional Planning for the COG, reported that AB 32 requires California Air Resources Board to develop a Scoping Plan for carbon emission reductions. She referred the Board to recommended amendments to the comments developed by SCAG staff to be made to the Air Resources Board concerning the AB 32 draft Scoping

Plan. The recommendations were that the Scoping Plan should “identify permanent revenue sources to fund the Plan’s implementation at the regional and local levels of government” and that there is “meaningful subregional representation” on the Regional Targets Advisory Committee. She said these recommendations would go to the SCAG Regional Council tomorrow. The Executive Director said that staff had talked to other subregions to support the amendments.

Member Daniels asked if the League of California Cities indicated why it had changed its position on SB 375 in favor of support. Mr. Farfsing responded that the best staff could get from them is that they were satisfied with changes made in the language of the bill. Second Vice President DuBois said that cities that have already done things such as modernizing their fleets get no credit for it.

It was moved by Second Vice President DuBois, seconded by Member Hurtado, to refer SB 375 back to the City Managers Steering Committee and to support the recommended amendments to the AB 32 Scoping Plan as presented by staff. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said that SB 375 had been signed by the Governor yesterday. She credited the City of Lakewood and the COG for bringing the issues surrounding SB 375 to the forefront; otherwise the League would not have put out a clarifying memo. She asked for comments from cities to bring back to the League to work on for possible clean up legislation. She described the Neighborhood Stabilization Act, under which CDBG entitlement cities are on a list to receive monies. Otherwise the State Department of Housing and Community Development would receive funding. She passed out a memo regarding the recently approved State budget. She announced that Member Carroll was now on the League’s Board of Directors.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She said that the JPA and the cities of Downey and Commerce are looking at the segment from I-605 to I-710. Regarding the segment from I-605 south to the Orange County line, she reported that there were continued discussions with Caltrans regarding hazardous waste on properties that Caltrans may acquire.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

There was no report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

There was no report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said that 70% of

the available Tier 1 grant funds from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy went to projects in the Gateway Cities subregion. Member Barrows said that he had heard that some money is being spent by the Conservancy on projects outside of the watershed. Member Wilson said that he had heard that some money had been spent in Irvine, but that he would follow up with staff on this. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Gurule, 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 Committee did not have a meeting because it did not achieve a quorum. Member Hurtado said that the Committee was in need of a meeting and asked the cities to send alternates if their Committee members are not able to attend. Mr. Wood said that the next meeting is scheduled for October 22 to approve the key assumptions of the project. He said the I-710 protocols may help meet the SB 375 requirements. It was moved by Member Daniels, 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 he is working on a schedule of congestion hot spots to bring to the Committee. The Executive Director reported that Measure R on the November ballot recognizes the SR-91/I-605/I-405 corridor and includes \$600 million for projects in the corridor. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

Member Daniels said that it was a sad situation that the Lowenthal bill on port container fees had been vetoed. The Executive Director said that the veto related to a request from the Central Valley region that projects in their area be funded from the container fees.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM B
Approval of Warrant Register

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM C**

**September 2008 Local Agency Investment
Fund Statement**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BILL LOCKYER, *Treasurer*

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
SACRAMENTO

Local Agency Investment Fund
PO Box 942809
Sacramento, CA 94209-0001
(916) 653-3001
www.treasurer.ca.gov/pmia-laif



September, 2008 Statement

GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Attn: TREASURER
16401 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD
PARAMOUNT CA 90723

Account Number : 40-19-045

Transactions

<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Transaction Date</u>	<u>Tran Type</u>	<u>Confirm Number</u>	<u>Authorized Caller</u>	<u>Amount</u>
09-08-2008	09-05-2008	RD	1186788	JACK JOSEPH	325,000.00

Account Summary

Total Deposit :	325,000.00	Beginning Balance :	752,070.85
Total Withdrawal :	0.00	Ending Balance :	1,077,070.85

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM D**

**Status Report from Lobbyist –
Government Relations Consultants**

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANTS

To: Richard Powers
Gateway Cities Council of Governments

From: Allynn Howe
Government Relations Consultants

October 29, 2008

BATTLE OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGES

Despite Congress being out of session, there are numerous Members of Congress in town doing battle over what Congress should be doing to jump start the economy.

On Monday, Speaker Pelosi outlined that Democrats will have a series of hearings to review how best to create an estimated \$150 billion package of increased federal spending to stimulate the economy in what they are calling a recovery for the rest of the economy, outside of Wall Street.

The stimulus package as described will benefit:

- Homeowners;
- Unemployed;
- State and local governments

The plan would do this by increasing aid to states; extending unemployment insurance benefits, investing in transportation and infrastructure, and perhaps providing a new round of tax rebate checks.

On Tuesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Benjamin Bernanke expressed support calling a new stimulus package “helpful and worthwhile...” Late Tuesday, opposition from President George W. Bush seemed to be softening. House Republican Leader John A. Boehner laid out a set of economic principles on Monday he expects the majority party to include in a financial recovery package and wants this package passed before Election Day. Principles include tax reductions and incentives for off shore drilling and bank reforms.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

The total funding anticipated for the Highway/Transit portion of the Stimulus package is anticipated to be \$32 billion.

Congressional leaders (and now Bernanke and maybe the President) want to reconvene congress for a lame duck session to consider passing a new economic stimulus package. Putting aside the odds of pulling this off, they have asked for projects to be submitted.

What we've been told is that projects submitted for the Stimulus II package getting the highest priority will be those already started and that need an infusion of money to complete. Funding would need to be used within 90 and at most 120 days and be capable of completion within the calendar year. Emphasis should be on projects that create jobs, reduce congestion/pollution. Transit projects would be eligible. The stimulus would try to help fund the completion of bridge and/or highway projects currently underway. The ideal projects would be ones that had already been included in your local Metro Transportation Infrastructure Plan, received previous federal funding, and were on hold awaiting the receipt of the necessary funding for completion.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES that may be of interest to Gateway Cities COG members:

Department of Transportation/Department of Commerce:

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Telecommunications & Information Administration released a joint notice today seeking comments on implementing regulations for the E-911 Grant Program. The DOT proposal would implement the grant program created by the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004, amended to require the Administrator and the Assistant Secretary to issue joint implementing regulations prescribing the criteria for grant awards.

The Agencies want grants limited to states and seek to bar local governments and Indian tribes.

The deadline to submit comments is **December 2, 2008**, and may be submitted online (<http://www.regulations.gov>), via fax (202-493-2251), or by postal mail (Docket Management Facility, M-30, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590).

Identify your comments by DOT Docket ID Number NHTSA-2008-0142. If commenting via mail, include two copies. Primary comments must be less than 15 pages, but additional attachments (unlimited in length) are permitted. To view the full notice, please see:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-23266.pdf>.

FEMA

DHS has announced it will begin accepting applications for the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program for FY 2009. The program funds projects designed to protect individual property from natural hazards, while simultaneously reducing reliance on Federal post disaster funds. Approximately \$100 million is available for 80 awards. Applicants can request up to \$3 million for Mitigation Projects; \$800,000 for New Mitigation Plans and \$400,000 for Updating Mitigation Plans. A 25 percent local match is required.

Applications are due **December 19, 2008**.

VIII. REPORTS

ITEM A

**Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase
2– Presentation by Kimberly Yu, Metro,
Project Manager**



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

October 23, 2008

Richard Powers
Executive Director
Gateway Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, CA 90723

Re: Request for presentation of Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 to Gateway Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Powers:

Please accept this letter as a request from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to make a presentation to the Gateway COG Board of Directors at your scheduled November 5th meeting. The presentation will focus on the findings of the recently completed Alternatives Analysis (AA) Study, for the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project, as well as plans to present the project to the Metro Board on December 4 and request authorization to move the project into the environmental evaluation phase.

The purpose of this AA study was to identify and evaluate potential transit alternative that would connect cities further east with Phase 1 of the Metro Gold Line Eastside project now under construction in East Los Angeles. Over the past year, alternatives have been narrowed from 47 initial concepts to 17 study alternatives and finally 5 refined alternatives. This Phase 2 project provides an opportunity to extend transit service further east connecting these cities with the growing Los Angeles Metro rail network.

The Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project area includes a number of Gateway COG member cities such as Montebello, Pico Rivera, Downey, Whittier, Commerce, Santa Fe Springs, Bell as well as unincorporated portions of LA County.

We appreciate the opportunity to present the project and look forward to answering any questions you may have. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to call me at (213) 922-7910.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Yu
Project Manager



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

Metro

Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2

Presentation Executive Summary

The Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 presentation will provide an overview and results of the Alternatives Analysis study completed by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), while providing specifics on the key elements of the process. The project is expected provide transit services to the cities further east of Los Angeles by linking to the overall regional transportation system specifically, to the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase 1 (currently under construction).

A series of community meetings were hosted in November of 2007 to collect community input on feasible alternatives and the evaluation criteria. The evaluation and screening process identified seventeen conceptual alternatives and five refined alternatives, with various modes and configurations.

Shortly after the identification of the refined five, a second round of community meetings was hosted to share the results and collect feedback in April this year. Project costs, ridership, cost effectiveness, economic development/land use, travel time savings and comparisons, reliability, community acceptability, environmental effects, sustainability factors, security and safety, and financial capability were all key components of the evaluation criteria to further analyze the refined alternatives.

The final screening consisted of various components including, a more detailed technical and tradeoff analyses as well as the implementation of the Federal Transit Administration specific criteria. As a result, the Metro staff will recommend the following five alternatives for the initiation of the environmental analysis.

- SR-60 Light Rail Transit
- Beverly Light Rail Transit
- Beverly/Whittier Light Rail Transit
- Washington Light Rail Transit

The recommendation will also include a No-Build alternative as well as a Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative which includes all the provisions of the no-build alternative. Metro staff will present the recommendation to the Board of Directors late 2008.

VIII. REPORTS

ITEM B

San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Grant Program Report

**By Belinda Faustinos, Executive Director,
RMC**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Powers, Executive Director

SUBJECT: San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Grant Program Report

Background

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) were established by State Legislation in which the COG was an active participant. The Gateway Cities are represented on the RMC Board by two members, Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell of Long Beach and Councilmember Ed Wilson of Signal Hill.

Issue

Over the past few years, RMC has distributed funds from several state water bonds via a competitive grant process among cities in its watersheds, which include the San Gabriel Valley and portions of Orange County in addition to Gateway Cities. A total of over \$12 million has so far been awarded within the Gateway Cities.

RMC Executive Director Belinda Faustinos will provide the board with a report on the current round of grant funding being offered by the RMC.

Attachments

- List of Tier 1 Gateway Cities grant applications
- List of Tier 2 Gateway Cities grant applications

Recommended Action

Receive and file report.

Tier 1 Applications: Sorted by COG Area, then by Applicant								
Program Manager	Project Name	Applicant	COG Area	Current description	Application Amount	Recommendation	Recommended Funding Amount	Total Score
Jane Beesley	Development of Palm Street Linear Park	Bellflower, City of	Gateway	The project will provide a park in an urban area that is park poor, dense and lower income. The City is deficient approximately 160 acres of park land and has little funds and open space to create parks. Creatively re-using underutilized parcels the City will create new park space. This project is an extension of a new Pocket Park in the City. Project will include river bed bank and basin, pedestrian path, picnic areas, permeable pavement in the parking lot and signage.	\$1,840,446.00	Full Funding	\$1,840,446.00	75
Tim Worley	West San Gabriel River Walk	Long Beach, City of	Gateway	The San Gabriel River Walk would develop unused open space next to the western levee of the San Gabriel River into a passive park with pathways and native landscaping.	\$2,288,143.00	Partial funding recommended; \$1,144,072 from RMC once applicant has matching funds from other sources - federal or state grant programs &/or county (Proposition A) funds.	\$1,144,072.00	62
Alina Bokde	114th Street Park-South LA	Trust for Public Land	Gateway	The project involves the acquisition and development of a pocket park in South Central Los Angeles. This is a joint effort between the Trust for Public Land, Heal the Bay and Grant Housing and Economic Development Corporation. The project will transform a blighted vacant lot into a place for rest, relaxation, recreation and a gathering spot for local community groups. The park will be located in the heart of one of Los Angeles's densest and poorest neighborhoods; in a community where significant percentage of residents struggle with obesity and high blood pressure. The park will provide a safe place for families living in overcrowded circumstances to exercise, participate in community and cultural events and enjoy a natural native landscape.	\$338,000.00	Incomplete: No Step 2 application submitted+L9	\$0.00	0
Jane Beesley	Pine Avenue Park Acquisition and Development	Trust for Public Land	Gateway	The Trust for Public Land is working with the City of Maywood and its communities to develop a pocket park. This area is a park poor community near the Los Angeles River. This project includes acquisition and development of the park.	\$549,289.00	Full Funding	\$549,289.00	70

EXHIBIT C, All Tier 2 Applications Sorted by COG Area, then by Applicant					
COG Area	Applicant	Project Name	Current Description	Recommended Funding Amount	Recommendation
Gateway	Central Basin Municipal Water District	Hollydale Garden Development Project	This project is to enhance water education for students and the public by providing a hands on demonstration garden that features drought resistant plants and water efficient irrigation. Located near the Los Angeles River at Hollydale Park in South Gate, this garden will be designed in conjunction with curriculum from the Hollydale Elementary School. Although fenced in for student safety, it will be visible and easily enjoyed by the community, with informational signage. Public tours will be offered through the school. The City of South Gate is an "impacted city" and the project will enhance urban land, as defined under the Green urban Space designation.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. The project only utilizes drought tolerant plants. Access limited.
Gateway	Compton, City of	Cocoa St. Park Development-Compton	Funding request is for the planning and design of a City owned cul-de-sac which would involve the removal of existing street pavement to create new park space in a highly urbanized area adjacent to Compton Creek. In place of the street pavement the City of Compton proposes to install a permeable walkway surface, landscaping with native plants, directional and interpretive signage, security lighting and bench seating.	\$0	Fund if deemed feasible. Staff proposes to work with applicants and other stakeholders to determine feasibility and prioritization of Compton Creek based on the Regional Garden Master Plan and return to the Board with a recommendation of funding for planning and design.
Gateway	Compton, City of	Native Habitat Restoration, Trail Improvements, Compton	The project is for the first phase of the project that will complete the planning, design and CEQA for the trail which will then restore native habitat along the existing multipurpose trail adjacent to Compton Creek. Along the more than half mile trail, native riparian landscaping will be planted, educational signage and recreational amenities will be installed, and the existing chain link fencing will be replaced with a decorative fence. Access points at Compton and Alondra Boulevards will be made wheelchair accessible. Stormwater runoff will be collected, treated with Best management Practices (BMPs), and recycled in a graywater irrigation system.	\$0	Fund if deemed feasible. Work with applicants and other stakeholders to determine feasibility and prioritization of Compton Creek based on the Regional Garden Master Plan and return to the Board with a recommendation of funding for planning and design.
Gateway	Compton, City of	Street-End Park, Compton	Grant proposal is for planning and design of converting 13 street ends that adjoin the Compton Creek into small pocket parks that would increase public access sites to the bike path and the equestrian trail as well as provide open space. At each location, possible elements include native landscaping, walkways, benches, fencing, and educational signage. All sites would incorporate Best Management Practices. Project locations were selected from the Regional Garden Park Master Plan.	\$0	Fund if deemed feasible. Staff proposes to work with applicants and other stakeholders to determine feasibility and prioritization of Compton Creek based on the Regional Garden Master Plan and return to the Board with a recommendation of funding for planning and design.
Gateway	Downey, City of	Treasure Island Renovation Project	Community organization, Unity, is working with the City to make improvements to this heavily used park. Grant funding will provide construction documents and improvements to the park. The project includes security lighting, walking trail, picnic areas, small play area, benches, turf renovation and replacement of irrigation system (reclaimed water). The 4 acre park is located along the Rio Hondo River Trail and the proposed improvements will create a safe walking trail through the park.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. The majority of funding is for infrastructure of the refurbishment of the existing park.
Gateway	Huntington Park, City of	Huntington Park Trail and Open Space Development	Huntington Park Trail and Open Space Development Project has been phased to request funding for the first phase. Phase 1 is: Planning, Design, CEQA and Permits, Planning, design development and rehabilitation of the 5.8 acres of open space and 1.63 trail miles at Salt Lake Park and adjacent DWP transmission corridor. Salt Lake park trail development to include more than 6000 feet of trail space. Rehabilitation will include complete replacement of irrigation systems to improve water conservation and hydrate native landscaping to be installed around the trail. Project also includes installation of lighting to illuminate trail for evening use, and installation of trail signage and fitness zones. DWP portion to include the lease and development of 10 parcels of land into trail and open space.	\$585,000	Fund. This project is located in an urban target area and will result in a new trail connection, a trail between the two existing parks along with the refurbishment of the irrigation system to conserve water.
Gateway	Huntington Park, City of	Huntington Park Water Reservoir	Assessment of feasibility & planning for converting one or more of five existing water reservoir sites to an underground facility with the intention of utilizing the remaining surface area for compatible open space park uses. Water reservoirs range in size from 0.26 - 2.1 acres. Phase 2 to include design, permit, management and construction costs associated with converting one or more of the reservoirs. Phase 3 to include development for open space recreation area. Phase 1: \$555,000 (site #12 only = \$80,000), Conversion estimated \$2.5 million.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. Recommend investigation of other funding sources for feasibility study and development

EXHIBIT C, All Tier 2 Applications Sorted by COG Area, then by Applicant					
COG Area	Applicant	Project Name	Current Description	Recommended Funding Amount	Recommendation
Gateway	Lakewood, City of	West San Gabriel River Parkway- Phase 3 Development	The project will provide re-grading, establish riparian flora, native grasses and add a 2, 900-foot ADA trail along Lakewood's remaining 11 acres of undeveloped riverside lands between Del Amo Boulevard and Candlewood Street. Plans also include the installation of 525 feet in hardscape pathways through a major city community services facility (Mae Boyar Park) that will link the new greenbelt with the existing 19 acres of the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail. The addition of this new trail development will create a mile and one-half of continuous greenbelt bordering Lakewood's western side of the river. The Step 2 application requests funds for preconstruction costs only.	\$108,638	Fund. Approve Funding for first phase. Project has very strong trail and access elements, good interpretive features.
Gateway	Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, City of	El Dorado Regional Park Water Conservation and Water Quality Improvements	This project is to convert the 8 lakes in El Dorado Regional Park and Nature Center from potable well water to excess reclaimed water. This would be done by installing nano-filtration plants at the northern-most lake in the Park and in the maintenance yard adjacent to the Nature Ctr. The nano-filtration will provide clean water to the lakes, and allow the lakes to overflow into the connecting streambeds, thereby providing increased circulation and cleansing of the lakes from the accumulation of pollutants that now occurs with the minimal overflow that now occurs. The estimated potable water savings would be 190 acre-feet per year.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. The project is too narrowly focused on a single benefit, converting a water source from potable to recycled water, resulting in a low evaluation score. Consider funding through IRWMP, Department of Water Resources grant programs, or Metropolitan Water District Conservation and Local Resource Programs.
Gateway	Long Beach, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, City of	De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project	The DeForest Park Wetlands Restoration Project will restore 26-acres of historic wetlands, scrub and woodland habitat, provide water quality improvement, passive recreational amenities and interpretive enhancement while retaining flood control properties to create a river parkway along the lower Los Angeles River. This grant proposal is for the first Phase of implementation of the overall project. The project also includes improving the existing degraded pedestrian trail with enhanced trails, overlooks and educational displays. Project elements include improved spillways for storm drain outlets, regarded slope to restore stream flow and trails, installation of trash collection devices, removal of exotic plants, replanting of native plants, redirection of Market Street storm drain to wetland instead of pump forebay, and preparation and installation of educational and directive signage.	\$1,000,000	Partially fund. Funding will go towards the construction elements of the project which can include grading and other elements of the first Phase of development. Work with the City to commit Prop A funds for future phases of the project.
Gateway	Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, County of	Whittier Narrows Equestrian Facility Development	The project objective is to establish the Whittier Narrows Equestrian Facility as a model for the best management practices for storm water runoff and containment of waste impacting the adjacent watershed. The project would remedy flooding and drainage problems by corrective grading, averting off-site drainage from existing facilities and containing on-site drainage. The project scope includes, widening the entry and installing gates; signage landscaping; replacement of infrastructure for water, electrical and sewer; a new restroom; storage building, new exterior lighting. The project will serve as an example for sustainable practices and mitigate the current impacts to the San Gabriel River. The Step 2 application was phased, with funding requested for pre-construction work including design, permitting and CEQA compliance, and construction documents.	\$0	Fund if deemed feasible. Feasibility will be determined for all project applications in the Whittier Narrows area pending completion of the Whittier Narrows Development Plan. At this time there does not appear to be any urgency regarding the current project applications.
Gateway	Los Cermos Wetlands Authority	LCWA Bixby/Dean Acquisition	After being owned by the Bixby Land Company since the 1800's, this 185 acre property was recently sold to a local private land owner, Thomas Dean. This project would be to negotiate with the new owner to acquire the surface rights to this precious property. It contains over 45 acres of pristine tidal salt marsh habitat, as well as several acres of brackish marsh mixed with an abundance of degraded salt marsh in need of rehabilitation. Currently Breitburn Energy leases the land for oil operations. The Step 2 application is phased, with the requested funds only covering preacquisition work.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. No matching funds were identified, and the project lacked elements of educational, water resource, or restoration that might be expected in such a location.
Gateway	Los Cermos Wetlands Authority	LCWA Wetlands Rest & Recre Access-Bryant	In June of 2006 the LCWA purchased 66 acres of Los Cermos Wetlands from Bryants. However, the Bryants retained the portions of the property that are adjacent to the nearest road. Purchasing the frontage property is integral to developing a comprehensive restoration plan for the area and would allow the design of public trails that will connect the communities of Southeast Long Beach to Seal Beach. The Bryant Phase 2 Acquisition is composed of a 12 acre parcel just west of the San Gabriel River and another nearly 5 acres just east of the river. The Step 2 application took a phased approach, with requested funds to be applied to planning and design for wetland restoration and stewardship planning, including hydrologic studies.	\$225,000	Partially fund. Recommend combining scope of studies for both Hellman (Project ID #104) and Bryant (#102) properties.

EXHIBIT C, All Tier 2 Applications Sorted by COG Area, then by Applicant					
COG Area	Applicant	Project Name	Current Description	Recommended Funding Amount	Recommendation
Gateway	Los Cermos Wetlands Authority	LCWA Wetlands Restoration & Recreation Access-Hellman	The LCWA is currently engaged in negotiations to purchase 100 acres of wetlands from the Hellmans. Once this purchase is completed, LCWA will initiate the restoration of the salt marsh and upland habitat. A large part of this project will involve a costly hydrological engineering aspect intended to improve the tidal flushing on the site and the other sites under the LCWA's control or ownership. This land has been privately owned for over a century and LCWA wants to improve the recreational access by linking it with other neighboring parks and communities of Seal beach. Phase One is acquisition of the Hellman Property, with this project as Phase 2 the Analysis, Restoration plan and Recreational Access Plan and Design.	\$225,000	Partially fund. Recommend combining scope of studies for both Hellman (Project ID #104) and Bryant (#102) properties.
Gateway	Lynwood, City of	City of Lynwood Pocket Parks	Phase 1 of project will create four (4) new open spaces within walking, biking distance of each other. All sites are within 50' of residential areas with access to Metro & bus lines. Directional site signage and brochure/map in English & Spanish to be available in print and via internet. All sites are within 15 minute or less walking distance to existing parks. Partners include Lynwood Unified School District and CalTrans. An artist will create educational and interpretive signage in English & Spanish to include elements on natural, cultural history and watershed stewardship. Site elements include walkways, signage, benches, landscaping. CalTrans has offered use of adjacent land for sustainable native plant landscaping to integrate with mature Redwood and other trees.	\$520,000	Partially fund. Fund \$520,000 to develop four of the eight pocket parks as Phase 1 (Sites 2, 3, 5 and 8), based upon community need determined by the City. These four sites are City-owned. Federal match \$147,000. RMC Staff will assist City to identify funding for implementation of the remaining sites.
Gateway	Maywood, city of	Maywood Riverfront Park Project-Phase 2	The project is the second phase of Maywood Riverfront Park. This project is the final implementation of Maywood Riverfront Park this phase includes open space consisting of native & ornamental landscaping, picnic areas, river viewpoints, bike/pedestrian trails and bilingual interpretation that will comprehensively serve for passive recreational activities, promote public health, and link the community to the Los Angeles River Greenway Project.	\$125,000	Partially fund. Fund half of requested funds and have City request LA River funding from SMMC (Prop A)
Gateway	Signal Hill, City of	Cha'wot Nature Preserve Acquisition and Planning	self deferred to next grant round	0	Withdrawn. Self deferred to next grant round
Gateway	South Gate, City of	Multi-purpose Trail /Landscape Development Project	Phase 1 planning: \$365,000 includes design/survey/permits. The project will beautify, enhance access and provide low impact recreation opportunities by improving the southern 25 feet of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right of way between Santa Fe Avenue and the Los Angeles River Trail system. The improvements consist of a multi-purpose trail, in addition to eliminating the visual blight of the UPRR right of way. The City of South Gate is an "impacted city" and the project will enhance urban land, as defined under the Urban Green Space designation.	\$365,000	Partially fund. Fund \$365,000 Phase 1 project feasibility, planning and land tenure negotiations/agreements, design and necessary permits. RMC Staff will assist city to identify funding for implementation as a result of this planning effort.
Gateway	Trust for Public Land	Maywood Avenue Park/ Development	This project will entail the development of a new pocket park on a vacant lot owned by City. The park will be located on one of Maywood's most dense streets filled with a mix of overcrowded apartments, mixed use commercial and industrial businesses. The site is located on the western boundary of the City where park services are far and few between. In a community where residents are plagued with chronic health conditions such as obesity and high blood pressure. the park will provide a place for exercise, relation, and community development.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. Investigate funding sources, i.e., Urban Parks Program, Trust for Public Land
Gateway	Whittier, City of	Greenway Trail Anti-Graffiti Measures	The existing Greenway Trail, a Rails to Trails has been developed as a pedestrian path and bikeway which includes educational/interpretive stations throughout the trail. The grant proposes to enhance this existing trail, which will include anti-graffiti landscaping to enhance the bikeway and public use of the trail where needed, trellis will be installed to support the landscaping thus eliminating the graffiti. The proposed improvements will enhance children's safety on this bikeway. Additionally, an irrigation system will be based on evapo-transpiration rates and will capable of multiple irrigation cycles with programmable soak in times and match precipitation rate sprinkler heads.	\$0	Not recommended for funding. Application primarily emphasized mitigation measures on existing trails.

**VIII. REPORTS
ITEM C**

**Report from City Managers Steering
Committee Re California Senate Bill 375
– Sustainable Community Strategy**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Ken Farfsing, Chair
City Managers' Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Report from City Managers Steering Committee Re California Senate Bill 375 – Sustainable Community Strategy

Background

In 2006 the state legislature passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This law's overall goal is to reduce the state's emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) back to 1990 levels by 2020. This Fall the legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 375, a bill that addresses the specific portion of GHG emission reductions related to the regional transportation planning process.

AB 32 required the State Air Resources Board to take the lead in implementing the law, beginning with a Scoping Plan to achieve reductions in California GHG emissions that is now in draft form.

The current draft scoping plan identifies an initial statewide target of 5 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MMT_{CO2E}) reductions from the regional transportation sector. According to the draft scoping plan, the ultimate target for this sector will be determined through the SB 375 process. These are reductions that would come from changes in land use planning, over and above changes to fuels, automotive operations, and automotive technology. Further, SB 375 applies to travel by cars and light trucks, but not to emissions from heavy-duty trucks.

Issue

SB 375 calls for metropolitan planning organizations (in our case, the Southern California Association of Governments, or SCAG) to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy that will become part of the Regional Transportation Plan. This strategy will include population, housing and employment projections and infrastructure plans closely related to elements of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

SB 375 allows sub-regions within the SCAG region only to undertake development of their own Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), in collaboration with the county transportation commission (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority). It is the City Managers' recommendation that the Gateway Cities develop their own sub-regional SCS.

To that end the City Managers recommend that the COG retain consultant services to develop the sub-regional SCS using funds raised through a flat \$5,000 fee per city for this purpose.

The schedule to implement SB 375 calls for the development of a draft regional target for GHG reductions in Southern California by June 2010 (final target by September 2010). The statewide process does not explicitly include time for a sub-regional strategy to be developed, so it is advisable that the COG move expeditiously to ensure that our interests are well represented in the regional and state processes.

Recommended Action

Approve special assessment of \$5,000 per city for consultant services to develop a sub-regional SCS under SB 375.

X. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
ITEM A
Conservancy Committee

Oral Report

X. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
ITEM D

Transportation Committee

- 1. Letter Supporting the Ban on Long-Combination Vehicles**

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Richard Powers, Executive Director
BY: Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy
SUBJECT: Letter Supporting the Ban on Long Combination Vehicles

Background

In the past, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments has gone on record as opposing the lifting of the ban on long-combination vehicles (LCV). LCVs in addition to creating significant safety hazards causes increased wear and tear on freeways and arterials.

Issue

As work begins on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, the trucking industry is again making a major push to increase the size and weight limits of trucks citing these trucks as being more environmentally efficient. Congressman James McGovern (Massachusetts) introduced H.R. 3929, the Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act that extends the existing weight and length limits on trucks.

Recommended Action

Recommend approving the attached letters to US Senator Feinstein and Congress Members Napolitano and Richardson to be signed by the COG Board President.

Attachments

Letters to US Senator Feinstein and Congress Members Grace Napolitano and Laura Richardson.

November 5, 2008

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
United States House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano,

On behalf of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) and its 27 member Cities, I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm the COG's continued opposition to allowing heavier and longer trucks on our roads. Our concerns are the same as they have been for many years; Heavy trucks are dangerous, cause tremendous amounts of damage to our roads and bridges and leave the taxpayers with the burden of fixing the roads.

Numerous studies, including the U.S. Department of Transportation's Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study found that heavier trucks are more dangerous. Adding extra weight makes them more difficult to control, more likely to roll over, and much harder to steer.

Many of the bridges in California are old and are greatly in need of repair. Over 55% of the bridges in California are over 40 years old and the US Department of Transportation already rates 29% as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. These trucks increase the risk of bridge failure, accelerate bridge deterioration, and add to the cost of maintaining our highway infrastructure. Heavy trucks already cause the greatest amount of damage to our roads and bridges and leave the taxpayers with the burden of fixing the roads.

Finally, heavier trucks don't pay their share of costs for needed repairs and maintenance. The last Federal Highway Cost Allocation Study found that trucks operating at the current 80,000 pound limit pay approximately 80% of the damage they create and that a 100,000 pound truck pays approximately 40% of its costs.

An argument put forward by long combination vehicle proponents is that these vehicles are environmentally superior in that they are able to haul more payload with the same resources. Given the accelerated road wear and the non-renewable resources that are required to repair the roads, this argument is not valid.

Putting more trucks on our roads will worsen safety and infrastructure costs and require that more taxpayer dollars be spent on highway and bridge re-construction. Right now, our roads and bridges are in badly in need of repair and should be a priority to take care of before they deteriorate any further without adding the additional wear and abuse in allowing heavier trucks. I urge you to oppose these increases and sign on as a cosponsor to the Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act (SHIPA, H.R. 3929).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Bayer, President
Gateway Cities Council of Governments

November 5, 2008

Congresswoman Laura Richardson
United States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Richardson,

On behalf of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) and its 27 member Cities, I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm the COG's continued opposition to allowing heavier and longer trucks on our roads. Our concerns are the same as they have been for many years; Heavy trucks are dangerous, cause tremendous amounts of damage to our roads and bridges and leave the taxpayers with the burden of fixing the roads.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Bayer, President
Gateway Cities Council of Governments

November 5, 2008

Senator Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

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Sincerely,

Anne Bayer, President
Gateway Cities Council of Governments