

**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 5, 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 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 Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
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 Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Connie Sziebl, 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 Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Ronald Fisher, Office of Supervisor Yvonne Burke
Member Richard Steinke, Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach
ALSO PRESENT: Long Beach Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, SCAQMD

Governing Board Member; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Manager Jorge Rifa; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager Alex Clifford; Metro Public Relations Manager David Hershenson; Kimberly Yu, Metro; Dave Monks, Metro; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Director, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Alina Bokde, Deputy Executive Director, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Don Rhodes, Public Affairs Manager, L.A. First 5; Yesenia Arias, Arellano Associates; Chester Britt, Arellano Associates; Tracy Young, Anchor, Local Edition; 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.

Member Lowenthal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Don Rhodes, Public Affairs Manager, L.A. First 5, announced that his organization had \$20 million in grant funds available to cities to fluoridate their water supplies up to the optimal levels for dental health. He distributed a flyer describing his organization's projects to the Board.

The Executive Director referred the Board to a letter from Board President Anne Bayer and SCAQMD Board Member Tonia Reyes Uranga inviting city officials to attend an educational briefing and discussion on air quality to be held on Thursday, November 20, at the offices of the COG. He announced that the City Managers Steering Committee had scheduled a joint meeting with the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation to discuss partnering on an economic development strategy. He reported that Norwalk Mayor Michael Mendez, Chair of the Southeast/Long Beach MTA Sector Subcommittee, had sent out a notice to all cities to survey them regarding the best date of the week of December 8th to hold a meeting of the Subcommittee to nominate a member of the MTA Board of Directors.

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

Kimberly Yu, Project Manager, Metro, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Phase 2 Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Project to extend the Metro Red Line eastward to the City of Whittier. Second Vice President DuBois asked how many years out it would be

before the project is actually constructed. Ms. Yu responded that the EIR stage would take 32 months and that then the Federal Transportation Authority would have to review and approve the plans, since the project will be seeking federal funds. She said the user benefit cost cannot exceed \$24.99 per rider or the project won't be competitive. She estimated project completion could take 9-10 years. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Belinda Faustinos, Executive Director of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, gave a presentation regarding the Conservancy's grant program. She referred the Board to a handout concerning the levels of grant funding awarded. She said that two tiers of grants had been completed and that the Conservancy was now moving to a third phase funded by Proposition 84. She said attention would be more focused on urban areas and that she was encouraging submittal of good projects. So far, twenty cities within the COG subregion have received funding.

Member Wilson said that he wished to clarify something he had said at the last meeting when he indicated that a project had been funded by the Conservancy in the City of Irvine. He said it was actually in the City of Anaheim, which is in the territory served by the Conservancy.

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

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee concerning Senate Bill 375, relating to greenhouse gas emissions. He said that the city managers are concerned that cities don't have the scientific resources to deal with the requirements that the State will be imposing on them. He said that SCAG was looking to the COGs to take the lead. He said the City Managers Steering Committee was recommending that the COG establish an assessment of \$5,000 per city to fund the scientific study. He said that CEQA may establish greenhouse gas conditions that cities will have to comply with in approving any new developments.

The Executive Director said that SCAG will be looking to the larger COGs to get a handle on this issue. He said the ramification could be that aspects of cities' land use decisions could be turned over to SCAG and the California Air Resources Board.

It was moved by Second Vice President DuBois, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee to approve a special assessment of \$5,000 per city for consultant services to develop a subregional Sustainable Community Strategy under SB 375. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She reported that the Governor had called a special session of the state legislature to deal with the State's budget crisis. She said the State's budget shortfall could be \$10 billion or higher. She said everyone should be prepared for spending cuts and tax increases. She said the League wants to remind the Governor that cities are at the forefront of the mortgage crisis. Member Daniels asked if the League would be representing cities with the Governor on this issue. Ms. Guerrero responded that they are already talking with the Governor's office. She said they could use cities' "misery stories".

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She said that the JPA would be working with Metro and the COG to help develop a list of projects to be funded under a federal economic stimulus bill that may be funded by the lame duck session of Congress. Regarding the I-5 segment from I-605 to I-710, she said that comments are now being received on the EIR. She said cities have received two alternatives for 10 lanes on that segment.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

SCAQMD Board Member Tonia Reyes Uranga presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. She said that she wished to invite the Board to the November 20 Air Quality Institute briefing.

Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said that things looked good for the passage of Measure R and that he would be reporting on the benefits of Measure R at a later date. He discussed the problems at the Norwalk Green Line station relating to the over capacity situation at the parking lot. He said that a consultant is looking at alternatives to address the problem. He said a survey would be taken of riders at the Lakewood Blvd. station.

Mr. Clifford said the Artesia Blvd. Blue Line station is also over capacity. Member Nelson asked if the consultant examining the Norwalk Green Line station would also be looking at the Blue Line station at Artesia Blvd. Mr. Clifford responded that the Blue Line Artesia station problem has apparently been solved by an agreement with the church adjacent to the station for use of its parking lot.

Mr. Clifford reported that December service changes would be made to lines 62 and 460, adding trips to those lines.

Member Wilson said that the Conservancy Committee report had already been covered by the earlier presentation by Belinda Faustinos.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that

the Project Committee would be meeting next week, followed by a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee the following week. He said the meetings would consist of reviews of several studies, including looks at alternative technologies.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that the Technical Advisory Committee would be meeting tomorrow to discuss the next steps in the project. He reported that Measure R included \$600 million each for I-710 and SR-91/I-605 hot spots.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. He said that the Committee was recommending that the Board send letters to the COG's federal representatives opposing triple trailers on California highways. Second Vice President DuBois asked if staff was working with Congressional offices. The Transportation Deputy responded not yet, but that cities will be asked to follow up on the letters that would be sent. Second Vice President DuBois stressed the importance of making phone calls to the representatives, which would be more effective than letters. Member Wilson suggested that cities also contact their representatives by e-mail. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Wilson, to direct staff to prepare the letters regarding triple trailers for signature and to ask cities to follow up with their Congressional representatives. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy reported that she had received a message from the Board of Supervisors' Office that Measure R was still undecided because of uncounted absentee and provisional ballots. Member Hurtado asked when Measure R would take effect. The Transportation Deputy responded that it would probably be effective in January.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

President Bayer announced the appointments of Downey Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra to the SCAG Transportation Committee, and Board Members Gordon Stefenhagen and Kathy Salazar to the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness. She invited Board Members who are interested in the vacancies on the Los Angeles County League of Cities Executive/Legislative Committee and SCAG Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee to see her after the meeting.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.