

**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
September 2, 2009**

President Stefenhagen called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
First Vice President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Second Vice President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Immediate Past President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Josue Barrios, City of Cudahy
Member Victor Farfan, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Hal Malkin, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Bob Archuleta, City of Pico Rivera
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Curt Pederson, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Richard Steinke, Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster;

Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Lakewood Assistant Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Long Beach Sustainability Coordinator Meredith Reynolds; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; MTA Deputy Executive Officer Ernest Morales; Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager Dana M. Coffey; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershenson; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Officer Derrick Alatorre; SCAG Regional Affairs Officer Matt Horton; Long Beach Conservation Corps Deputy Executive Director Joyce McDevitt; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 JPA; LaDonna DiCamillo, BNSF Railway; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Orangeline Development Authority; Claire Robinson, President, Amigos de Los Rios; Stacy Unholz, ITS Specialist, PBS&J; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Dobson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments made.

The Executive Director provided an update on the Homeless Program. He said the COG was now into the implementation planning phase, funded by the County, and that staff would come back to the Board for a discussion on how to proceed with this phase of the program.

It was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Davis, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously, with Second Vice President Dunton and Member DuBois abstaining on the minutes of August 5, 2009.

The Executive Director introduced Claire Robinson, Managing Director of Amigos de Los Rios, who gave a presentation regarding the Emerald Necklace program of the organization. She described the Emerald Necklace as a vision for a 17 mile interconnected network of trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel rivers. She said the network of trails would connect 1,500 acres of parks, open spaces, and habitat corridors. Following the presentation, it was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meredith Reynolds, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Long Beach, gave a presentation regarding the City of Long Beach' Sustainable City Action Plan. She described the Plan as a series of interconnected initiatives in the areas of energy,

buildings and neighborhoods, transportation, waste reduction, urban nature, water, and green economy and lifestyle aimed at creating a sustainable city. Following the presentation, it was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager addressed the Board regarding cities concerns regarding the California High Speed Rail Project's planning in the Gateway Cities area. He said the High Speed Rail Authority's desire is to get federal stimulus funds, and to do so it must show that it is ready to build the project. He said the Authority has to say that it has identified the route and has local support. Mr. Latham said that the project would run along the BNSF alignment in the cities of Vernon, Commerce, Pico Rivera, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, and Buena Park. He said the governor may become engaged to encourage support for the project in the affected cities.

Mr. Latham said that the MTA had made a previous decision not to engage this project, but new Executive Director Art Leahy has made a decision to significantly engage. He said a meeting is being arranged for late September involving the High Speed Rail Authority and the affected cities.

President Stefenhagen asked Mr. Latham to comment on how there might be some costs to the cities. Mr. Latham responded that an example is that the project's envisioning of moving the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center would require the cities to move the parking and provide for it.

Member Barrows said that they had the same conversation with the City of Glendale. He said that the court had ruled against the EIR in northern California.

Member Archuleta asked how this route has been kept secret for so long. Mr. Latham responded that the Authority has been out there with public relations presentations but did not engage city councils or city managers. In addition, he said, until the bond measure passed in November, no one thought this was a real project.

First Vice President Hurtado asked who decided the alignment for the project. Mr. Latham said that the Authority had and that the Authority did the analysis of the alternatives.

After further discussion, it was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Guerrero, to oppose the project unless the cities' and the COG's concerns are addressed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Barrows said that the financial model for the project is not self-sustaining and will become a drain on the taxpayers. Member DuBois said her concern is that when they hear objections they basically "blow them off".

Member Archuleta said that any letters sent must be strong to get the Board's message across. Member Barrows said it should be stressed that the entire COG is concerned, not just the cities directly affected.

Mr. Latham said that the voice of the MTA will be critical to this process.

The Deputy Executive Director presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee regarding SB 696. He said that the Committee had met with staff from the SCAQMD and had concluded that the intent of the COG Board's action was to have the power plants excluded from the legislation and not to otherwise minimize the types of projects that would be freed from the permit moratorium. He said the City Managers Steering Committee recommended that the President send a new letter expressing support for SB 696 if amended to exclude any power plant exemption. In fact, he said, SB 696 has since been amended to remove the power plant exemption. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Archuleta, to send a letter of support for SB 696 as amended.

Matt Horton presented a report from SCAG. He discussed the meetings that would be held the next day at SCAG.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said they were looking into using Measure R funds on projects within the corridor. She said the Carmenita interchange project was moving along.

Michael Kodama presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. He said he was working with the MTA on alternatives and funding options for the project.

Derrick Alatorre presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He thanked the Board for its vote to support SB 696.

Dana Coffey presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. She said that she has been with Metro for 35 years and is now currently responsible for both the South Bay and Gateway Cities sectors.

There was no report from the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors.

Joyce McDevitt presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. She highlighted projects that had been done by the Conservation Corps in the cities of Bellflower, Cerritos, and La Habra Heights, and along the I-710 freeway.

Member Wilson reported that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board had not met the previous month.

It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file all of the above reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the consultants were now updating the geometric plans according to the new traffic

models. He said the Technical Advisory Committee had voted on \$590 million in early action projects to be funded out of Measure R. He said these recommendations would be going to the Project Committee at its next meeting to be held on October 29.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that the Committee had approved a scope of work for a feasibility analysis of “hot spots” projects to be funded out of Measure R. He said project readiness will be critical for advancement to funding.

It was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Aguilar, to receive and file the reports from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee and the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She reported that the MTA is working on draft of guidelines for the local return funds under Measure R. She said the Call for Projects recommendations would be coming to the Board for approval. Member DuBois referred to the battle to keep highway funds in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Transportation Deputy said that MTA is starting to put together a highway strategy in a like manner to the transit strategy. She said the need is to include the \$590 million in Measure R funding each for the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 projects. She said a decision by the Board has been put off until October. The Executive Director said that the proposed funding for highway projects has gone from \$1.2 billion to \$5.9 billion. It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from the Board.

President Stefenhagen announced that Whittier Councilwoman Cathy Warner had agreed to accept an appointment to the SCAG Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Committee.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary