

**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
May 5, 2010**

President Stefenhagen called the meeting to order at 6:00 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
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 Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Gustavo Camacho, 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 Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe

ABSENT: Immediate Past President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
Member from the City of Artesia
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member from the City of Montebello
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Richard Steinke, Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham; Bell Gardens Director of Public Works John Oropeza; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Frank Cheng, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, County of Los Angeles CEO; MTA Deputy Executive Officer Ernest Morales; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershenson; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Officer Derrick Alatorre; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 JPA; Mike Bassett, Executive Director and CEO, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Bill Allen, President and CEO, LAEDC; Carrie Rogers, LAEDC; Barbara Levine, LAEDC; Anne Karna, Communications Manager, LA SAFE; Frank Osgood, Author of Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Second Vice President Dunton, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Allen, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, gave a presentation summarizing the LAEDC's Consensus Strategic Plan for Economic Development in Los Angeles County. Mr. Allen said that job growth has not kept up with population growth in the county. The Strategic Plan is made up of five major components: 1) prepare an educated workforce; 2) create a business-friendly environment; 3) enhance our quality of life; 4) implement smart land use; and 5) build 21st century infrastructure.

Mr. Allen said that the County Board of Supervisors had approved the Strategic Plan on December 22nd. He said the LAEDC is now asking all of the COGs in the county to similarly endorse the Plan.

Member DuBois said she had no problems with the Strategic Plan, but thought it

best to defer action so that the City Managers Steering Committee could have time to review it and report back to the Board.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member DuBois, to refer the Consensus Strategic Plan for Economic Development in Los Angeles County to the City Managers Steering Committee for review and a recommendation to be brought back at next month's meeting of the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne Karna, Communications Manager for LA SAFE, MTA, gave a presentation on the upcoming Southern California Traffic, Traveler, and Transit Information Program, which will be accessible by dialing 511 on a telephone. She said the Federal Communications Commission has dedicated the 511 number for traveler information. She said the Southern California program is still in Beta testing, but will go live in the summer. The 511 system will be voice activated, so after dialing 511 a caller can just say things like "traffic on the 405", "bus schedules", or "find a carpool partner" and receive the requested information. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the presentation.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue to the June meeting the item regarding the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base because the presenters could not be at tonight's meeting.

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Belinda Faustinos presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. She thanked the Board for its opposition to AB 1818. She said the bill is currently in the suspense file of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. She said there is a good chance that the bill will be amended. She announced the Conservancy's 10th anniversary celebration will be held at the Conservancy headquarters on May 24th.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the Health Risk Assessment is currently being reviewed. He said all other draft reports have been completed. He said the project team is presently evaluating changes requested by the utilities. He said the Technical Advisory Committee is reviewing potential early action projects. Mr. Wood reported that the Air Quality Action Plan work is likely to be started next month.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the scope of work for the "hot spots" projects is being modified to include project study reports. The SR 91/I-605, I-605/I-5, and I-605/SR 60 interchanges are three projects being looked at. He said the Corridor Cities Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting next month.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the MTA Board would be holding a special meeting on Saturday regarding

bus fares. If increased, basic fares will rise from \$1.25 to \$1.50. She said the Transportation Committee had discussed the inability of cities to engage the railroads on quality of life issues on railroad rights-of-way, including graffiti removal, trash, weeds, and dumping. She said the Transportation Committee recommends that the Board create a subcommittee of the Transportation Committee to study, inventory, and identify the problems and approach the railroads to resolve them. She said the Transportation Committee would like to engage the San Gabriel Valley COG, which has similar issues, as well as the MTA. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Stefenhagen presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. He said the Committee would be meeting on May 19th to interview candidates to co-chair the local coordinating alliances.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham presented a report on the California High Speed Rail project. He said the COG's consultants are now engaged and the exchange of information is better than before; however, there is still concern about property impacts. He said the Administrative Committee had met last week. He said the cities of Bell, Commerce, and Montebello want to be engaged regarding alternatives for Phase II.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to receive and file the reports from committees. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said the I-5/Carmenita Road interchange is on schedule to begin construction between December 2010 and May 2011, and that by September 2012 everything should be under construction according to Caltrans requirements.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

Karen Heit presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said alternatives analysis is currently underway on both the Los Angeles and Orange County segments of the West Santa Ana Branch route. She said the joint powers agreement is being amended to allow public entities other than cities to join.

Derrick Alatorre presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He said there are still about 2,000 lawnmowers available in the lawnmower exchange program. He said AQMD personnel are available to give talks on the District's Small Business Assistance Program

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said that meetings of the Blue Ribbon committee are still being held on the first Tuesday of the month at MTA headquarters.

Mike Bassett presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. He said the Corps had received a couple of earmarks to reach out to Hawaiian Gardens, north Long Beach, and Paramount. He said a Proposition 84 park bond presentation will be made to cities on how to partner with the Corps.

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

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to receive and file the agency reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Nordbak thanked the Board for supporting the City of Whittier's position on the East Side Light Rail Corridor extension alignment. He asked the Board to adjourn in memory of Board Member Larry Nelson, who recently passed away.

President Stefenhagen congratulated Member Nordbak on his re-election to the Whittier City Council. He extended an invitation to Board members to attend the Cal State University, Long Beach Economic Forecast Conference to be held on May 13th. He advised the Board that the COG is co-sponsoring a Forum by California's Public Infrastructure Advisory Committee on May 25th. President Stefenhagen announced that First Vice President Hurtado had been appointed to the Steering Committee of the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way West Santa Ana Branch Corridor Alternatives Analysis. He said he has asked the Executive Director to send \$100 to the Artesia branch of the American Cancer Society in memory of Board member Larry Nelson.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in memory of Board member and Artesia Councilmember Larry R. Nelson.