

**MINUTES 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
January 5, 2011**

President Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
First Vice President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Second Vice President Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Immediate Past President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
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 Luis Marquez, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, 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 Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Alberto Perez, City of Montebello
Member Joe Serrano, 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
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Sergio Infaizon, City of Bell Gardens
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Gustavo Camacho, City of Pico Rivera
Member Angie Castro, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Ex Officio Member Richard Steinke, Port of Long Beach
ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers
Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; La Mirada
Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Community Development
Director Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Director of Government Affairs and

Strategic Initiatives Tom Modica; South Gate Director of Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; Niki Tennant, District Director for Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal; Mike Hollon, Senior Field Representative for Assemblyman Charles Calderon; SCAG Public Affairs Specialist Denise Silva; MTA Project Manager Jon Grace; MTA Transportation Planning Manager Stacy Alameida; MTA Transportation Planner Scott Hartwell; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershensen; League of California Cities Public Affairs Manager Kristine Guerrero; I-5 Joint Powers Authority Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; Steve Huff, Senior Project Manager, RBF Consulting; Tom Ionta, Senior Project Manager CH2M Hill; Chris Wornum, Cambridge Systematics; Celia Ayala, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles Universal Preschool; Maria Veloz, Vice President for Public Affairs, Los Angeles Universal Preschool; Raul Romero, President, R&R Municipal Solutions; Frank Osgood, Author of Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Marquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

The Executive Director welcomed new Board members Robert Garcia and Luis Marquez. He announced that Niki Tennant, District Director for Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, would be attending the COG Board and Transportation Committee meetings on a regular basis.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Dobson, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Celia Ayala, Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles Universal Preschool, gave a presentation regarding her organization's program of financial support for quality preschools. She cited studies that showed that 70% of the brain's connections develop by age five, meaning that preschools can be very critical in a child's development. Thus, she said, investment in children at an early age has a much greater return than in older children. If children start behind in kindergarten, she said, they would continue to lag.

Ms. Ayala said that Los Angeles Universal Preschool is funded primarily through the state tobacco tax. With fewer people smoking, there is less funding available. She said over \$13.5 million has been invested in preschools in the Gateway Cities area, and that they will invest \$50 million over the next seven years if funds are available.

Ms. Ayala stated that she had four specific asks of cities: 1) sign a preschool pledge; 2)

connect parents to preschools through city newsletters and other media; 3) adopt a city resolution to support preschools; and 4) use CDBG funding to support preschools.

Member Barrios asked how the service rate in a city is determined. Ms. Ayala responded that it relates to how many available preschool spaces there are in your city per the number of children residing there.

Member Guerrero asked if there is a sample resolution that cities may use. Ms. Ayala responded that there is a sample resolution available.

Member Dobson asked if Los Angeles Universal Preschool is involved in Compton. Ms. Ayala said that they are, but not as much as they would like. She said more money is needed.

Member Aguirre said that no preschool centers are supported in Maywood. Ms. Ayala said the dollars at the state level are not where they used to be.

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

City Managers Steering Committee Chairman Ken Farfsing introduced Chris Wornum of Cambridge Systematics, whose firm is working on the preparation of the subregional Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the Gateway Cities COG. Mr. Wornum gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the process of developing the SCS. He gave some background on SB 375, which requires the adoption of strategies to reduce greenhouse gases in California.

Mr. Wornum explained that Orange County, the only other subregion to take delegation from SCAG to prepare its own SCS, is doing a less aggressive SCS in that it is just putting together a strategy identification to give to SCAG, but will not quantify it. He said the Gateway Cities do not have to do a standalone SCS and can do what Orange County is doing, but that is a choice to be made. He said the challenge is having to get to a benchmark of a reduction in greenhouse gases of 8% by 2020 and 13% by 2035.

Mr. Wornum said it is not clear how much “smart growth” strategies in land use will reduce greenhouse gases. He said SCAG has prepared future scenarios based primarily on cities’ general plans. Cities will be asked to evaluate these. He said there is a lot less “head room” for smart growth in Gateway Cities because the region is so built out.

Mr. Wornum discussed the schedule of upcoming workshops on the SCS. He said every city is submitting a list of strategies it has implemented since 2005. The problem, he said, is that SCAG is not providing a 2005 baseline for the subregion.

It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Member O’Donnell, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the change order for the scope of work on the EIR/EIS had been approved. He said proposals for the ITS Implementation Plan had been received and that interviews on the utilities study would be held next week. He reported that the I-710 Project Committee would be meeting at the end of the month and that the Technical Advisory Committee would be taking up early action projects. It was moved by Member Malkin, seconded by Member Lima, 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 it was hoped to have a kickoff meeting on the feasibility study on "hot spots" projects during this month. It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She reported on the action by the MTA Board of Directors to move forward on the change order for the I-710 EIR/EIS project. She said the Transportation Committee had acted to forward the nomination of Richard Burnett to fill the current vacancy for a member of the public on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council. She said Mr. Burnett works in Long Beach and uses public transit. It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Second Vice President Daniels, to endorse the nomination of Richard Burnett to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. He said staff and the consultants are readying for a meeting of the Committee sometime in the next two months.

The Executive Director presented a report on the California High Speed Rail project. He said the cities in the corridor had received Jerry Wood's analysis and that he and the Transportation Deputy had met with MTA and OCTA staff regarding the draft report. The report has now been submitted to the California High Speed Rail Authority.

It was moved by Second Vice President Daniels, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the reports from the Committee on Homelessness and the California High Speed Rail Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She reported that the City of Buena Park had left the JPA. She said two projects would be awarded in 2011: Carmenita Road and Alondra Blvd. The 2012 focus will be on two additional segments: Imperial Highway and Norwalk Blvd. It was moved by Second Vice President Daniels, seconded by Member Malkin, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said the League would be responding to Governor Brown's announcement that he wants to eliminate redevelopment agencies and realign functions from the state to cities. She said the League's Executive Board would be meeting with the Governor tomorrow. It was moved by Member Malkin, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the

report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said that work is still proceeding on SCAG's alternatives analysis regarding the Pacific Electric West Santa Ana Branch. She said an E-76 had been approved for the Bob Hope Airport project, which is funded by a grant that originated in 1987. It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

David Hershensen presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said the meetings of the Sector Governance Council will be moving to the City of Huntington Park and the first meeting will be held a week from tomorrow. He said February 10 had been set as the date for a hearing on the proposed service changes. He announced that MTA Board Chairman Don Knabe would be giving an address on transportation programs on January 12th in the City of Cerritos. It was moved by Second Vice President Daniels, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps.

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

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

President Hurtado said that Board members would be receiving a letter giving them the option of direct deposit of their stipend checks. He said he encouraged the Board members to take that option.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.