

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Chair – MTA Director Bonnie Lowenthal
Gateway Cities Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd. , Paramount
May 3, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER: Councilmember Gene Daniels called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Daniels – Paramount, Ray Harris – Supervisor Don Knabe’s Office, Marina Suerio – Santa Fe Springs, Bonnie Lowenthal – Long Beach, James Parker – Norwalk Transit, Mohammed Mastakami, Ken Farsing – Signal Hill, Bill Pagget – Paramount, Gary Milliman – South Gate, Kerry Cartwright – Port of Long Beach. Stan Carroll - La Habra Heights

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Nordbak, Larry Nelson, Elba Guerrero

OTHERS PRESENT: Alex Clifford, David Hershenson – Metro, Wally Shidler – Gateway Sector Council, Richard Powers, Jack Joseph, Deborah Chankin, Karen Heit – Gateway COG. Sumi Gant – Long Beach.

A quorum was present and the Minutes of the April 5, 2006 meeting were approved.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy to MTA Director Lowenthal gave a presentation on the status of AB2290 – a bill allowing for the formation of public private tollway projects. The bill was no longer active by the date of the meeting, however, it had a provision to allow for excessive length vehicles on exclusive truckways.

Director Lowenthal reported on SB 1507 – Margett, which called for the restructuring of the MTA Board giving a fifth seat to the South Bay COG. She explained that the MTA Board position was to oppose the bill as it did not originate from Los Angeles County. The MTA as a policy will oppose any bill not originating from the cities. The Transportation Committee recommended opposing the bill.

Karen Heit gave an update on the Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan; highlighting some of the deficiencies with the first work product, Task 3, Environment and Constraints. Kerry Cartwright addressed the lack of participation by the Port as an issue for the deficiencies in the plan effort to date. There was a general discussion on remedies for the process including

broadening the steering committee and involving the SCAG Goods Movement Task Force and MTA Board of Directors.

Gateway Sector General Manager, Alex Clifford, announced a Governance Council Meeting on Metro Connections (a regional bus restructuring effort).to be held May 12th in Downey. The plan should identify travel patterns, make better regional connections and achieve countywide efficiencies. David Hershenson, gave a brief update on the Infrastructure Bond Initiative and the importance to the MTA for supporting transit and projects that might otherwise be delayed including rehabilitation of the Metro Blue Line.

Jerry Wood, I-5 JPA Executive Director, updated the progress made on I-5 project. Caltrans has made offers on the homes to be acquired. Construction is scheduled for 2008. The I-5 North in Orange County Project will break ground next month for construction.

Richard Powers, COG Executive Director, gave an update on the I-710 Major Corridor Study (MCS). Final meetings were conducted for the Tier 2 Committee and the Oversight Policy Committee. The OPC evolved into the Project Committee and expanded its membership to include the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (non-voting) and the I-5 JPA and the Port of Los Angeles. Co-chairs Nancy Ramos and Frank Colonna were elected and there was a presentation of alternative freight transfer technologies. The I-710 Executive Committee met today also to accept the results of the mini-study and Near-term Air Quality Compendium.

Mr. Powers updated the status of the SR-91/I-605 Needs Assessment. The project still needs funding, and the COG is active in this manner. The California Trucking Association and 25 inter-modal carriers are collaborating to provide data to ITS projects.

New business – report back to the committee on soundwall funding.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.