

**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
March 7, 2007**

Call to order and roll call. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lowenthal at 4:35 p.m. Roll call was taken by self introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Lowenthal – Long Beach, Stan Carroll – La Habra Heights, Frank Gurule – Cudahy, Ken Farfsing – Signal Hill, Bill Pagett, – Paramount, Ray Harris – Supervisor Knabe's Office, Gary Milliman, – South Gate, Jaime Beccera – Norwalk Transit, Mohammed Mostahkami – South Gate, Gene Daniels - Paramount.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Elba Guerrero – Huntington Park, Fred Latham – Santa Fe Springs, Larry Nelson – Artesia, Kerry Cartwright – Port of Long Beach.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharad Mulchand - Metro, Michael Sieckert, – Metro, Richard Powers – Gateway Cities COG, Karen Heit – Gateway Cities COG, Deborah Chankin – Gateway Cities COG, Jerry Wood – Gateway COG, Sumire Gant – Long Beach, Gary Hammrick – Iteris Inc., Debra Reed – AQMD, Lee Ward – Iteris Inc., Alex Clifford – Gateway Cities Service Sector, David Hershenson – Gateway Cities Service Sector.

A quorum was reached and the Minutes of the February 7, 2006 meeting were approved.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy to Director Lowenthal reported on the continued development of the guiding principles for the CMP Fee process at the MTA. The guiding principles were currently under review by LA County cities per a Motion passed by Director Lowenthal at the February Planning and Programming Committee. Ken Farfsing discussed the development of some of the issues by private developers; MTA still has to work through many of the issues raised by stakeholders. The GCCOG will develop a survey to see where the Gateway Cities stand.

Other issues discussed was the need for the MTA to create a fee as opposed to maintaining the current system of debits/credits; conflicts with other fee proposals (AQMP)

Karen Heit reported on the status of the MTA Call for Projects and will provide a schedule for the next meeting and would send the schedule out to Gateway Cities.

Vice-Mayor Lowenthal gave an overview of the MTA January 29 Workshop and subsequent Board actions. She explained the intent behind the Fasana/Lowenthal Motion and the need to have LA County determine the nature of goods movement improvements and not have LA County goods movement defined by other counties. I-5 JPA Executive Director, Jerry Wood, discussed the initial comments from the workshop and Deborah Chankin discussed the need to keep GCCOG goods movement issues at the top of the LA County and multi-county efforts. Vice-Mayor Lowenthal assured the committee that she would keep the Gateway Cities issues at the top.

Alex Clifford, Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager, reported on security activities that were initiated at the Artesia Metro Blue Line Station. Metro Facilities Dept. will check the lighting for sufficient lumens; look at landscaping with security in mind. He reviewed various service changes. He discussed Metro Connections and the possibility of establishing transit hubs in Norwalk, Long Beach and Huntington Park. Discussions with those cities have concluded that there are either hubs already there or the potential exists to establish hubs. Clifford answered a question from last meeting about the weight distribution from the articulated buses. The weight distribution on artics are similar to the weight of standard buses spread over the three axles. There was a discussion of removal of bus lines and the ability to use Prop. C 25% on those streets. Bill Pagett suggested a "grandfather clause" for projects in development before the service removal.

Vice-Mayor Lowenthal reported on the last OCTA/MTA summit meeting and the upcoming Intercounty Transportation Study. Rail topics included the coordination of Metrolink, Amtrak and Coaster service as well as possible Metro Green Line coordination. GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers inserted that the Green Line issue needed to be discussed with Norwalk first.

Jerry Wood gave the update on the I-5 project progress. The \$387 million for the I-5 south was awarded by the California Transportation Commission. Certification of the EIR is imminent and most of the properties have been purchased.

Jerry Wood also gave an update on the I-710 EIR/EIS process, the responses to the RFP are in and under review, a recommendation is still on schedule for an MTA Board approval in April with a Notice to Proceed in May. The I-710 Corridor Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is under early development with interviews being conducted with Tier I and II stakeholders. A draft of the results is due in early April.

Lastly Mr. Wood said the SR-91/I-605/405 study will proceed as soon as a Notice to Proceed is issued from the MTA.

Under new business, Vice-Mayor Lowenthal passed out the SB 974 Ports: Congestion Relief Environmental Mitigation Regulatory Fee, and asked that it be agendized next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.