

**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
April 7, 2010**

President Stefenhagen called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 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 Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Pete Dames, 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 Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Michael McCormick, City of Vernon
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier
Member Curt Pederson, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe

ABSENT: Immediate Past President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member from the City of Montebello
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Bob Archuleta, City of Pico Rivera
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; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; SCAG Regional Affairs Officer Matt Horton; MTA Deputy Executive Officer Ernest Morales; Gerry Alvarez, Project Manager, MTA; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershenson; League of California Cities Public Affairs Manager Kristine Guerrero; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Officer Derrick Alatorre; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 JPA; Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Director, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Orangeline Development Authority; Chester Britt, Project Director, Arellano Associates; Mike Sprague, Whittier Daily News; 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.

Second Vice President Dunton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Executive Director announced that two items had arisen since the posting of the agenda: 1) the COG was notified that a hearing would be held next week on AB 1818, which potentially could affect the funding of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; and 2) a request from the City of Signal Hill regarding the issue of SB 375, scheduled to be discussed by the League of California Cities' policy committees tomorrow. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, that these two issues had come to the Board's attention after the posting of the agenda, that action needed to be taken before the next regular meeting of the Board, and that they be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director introduced Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, who presented a report recommending that two policy position statements regarding SB 375 be given at tomorrow's policy committee meetings of the League of California Cities. Mr. Farfsing said the first position is that legislation be adopted recognizing that SB 375 imposes an unfunded mandate on local government and providing funding for local jurisdictions to develop the required strategies imposed by SB 375. He said the second position is that the mandate to combine the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) with the Sustainable Communities Strategy under SB 375 be deferred so that the RHNA can be based on 2010 Census data. It was moved by Member Barrows, seconded by Member Dobson, to approve the recommendation that the Board adopt these policy position statements. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

The Executive Director introduced MTA Project Manager Gerry Alvarez, who gave an overview of the MTA's Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project. Mr. Alvarez gave some background on the scoping meetings that had been held on the project. He said four alignments had been looked at; after alternatives analysis was completed, the number of alignments was reduced to two: one basically along the SR-60 freeway corridor, and the second largely following Washington Blvd. Mr. Alvarez said the scoping period will close the middle of next week.

Member Mirabal asked whether MTA would be considering an expansion further east. Mr. Alvarez responded that it would not be looked at during this study.

The Executive Director summarized a report from the City Managers Steering Committee recommending support for the Washington Blvd. alignment. He said the recommendation was based on that alignment's travel time, route length, number of Gateway cities served, number of stations located in the Gateway Cities, capital cost per mile, and projected average weekly ridership. The Executive Director reported that the Transportation Committee also unanimously supported the Washington Blvd. alignment.

It was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to approve Resolution No. 2010-01:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GATEWAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF
THE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD ALIGNMENT OF THE EASTSIDE TRANSIT
CORRIDOR PHASE 2 AS THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The motion was approved unanimously.

Member O'Donnell introduced Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Belinda Faustinos, who addressed the Board regarding AB 1818. She said she thinks this bill may be a disservice to the lower Los Angeles River. She said she would not like to see anything that would adversely affect the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and asked that the Board oppose AB 1818 in its current form. Member O'Donnell said the bill was a potential threat to funding for our projects. Ms. Faustinos said the legislation, aimed at creating a new watershed conservancy for the upper Los Angeles River, establishes a very different model and drops another funding bucket alongside the Conservancy's. She said it should not infringe upon the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's structure or function.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing said it is very important that individual cities also state their opposition to this bill. Member Daniels said he sees this as another attempt by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to gain control over our area.

Member O'Donnell asked whether the recommendation was to oppose the bill or oppose unless amended. Ms. Faustinos offered to assist the COG staff with a letter.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Daniels, to oppose AB 1818. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the EIR/EIS study had reached a milestone in that the first draft of the EIR/EIS had been produced. He said, however, there will be a few months delay in order to address design concerns of the cities of Commerce and South Gate. He said the I-710 project has significant impacts on adjacent utilities, so a major utility relocation plan will be put together by the MTA. He said he recommended that no meeting of the Project Committee occur this month because of a lack of business.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the Corridor Cities Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee will be looking at the "hot spots" projects in more detail. He said the ITS master plan for goods movement should be starting in a few months.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to receive and file the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She thanked the cities for their support at the recent MTA Board meeting. She said there had been a motion that if there were to be another round of federal stimulus money to come 100% would go to the MTA. She said she asked staff to come back with a report showing how the funds would be distributed if 50% were to go to the cities. She said thanks to the efforts of Bellflower, Long Beach, and Signal Hill, the motion to distribute at least 50% to the cities was approved. She referred to the 30/10 proposal from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa that would take 100% of Measure R funds over the next ten years for transit projects. She said she would like a letter from the COG asking questions to Mayor Villaraigosa about the impacts of the 30/10 proposal. It was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member Mirabal, to receive and file the report and to direct staff to prepare a letter regarding the 30/10 proposal as recommended. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Guerrero presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness.

She related the recent tour of the PATH Partners facilities and encouraged other Board members to take a tour. President Stefenhagen described a recent meeting with PATH Partners and homeless services providers.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said that all segments are under design and close to construction for I-5 from I-605 south to the Orange County line. She said that Congresswomen Napolitano and Roybal-Allard are supporting a request for \$1 million for the EIR to keep the project going.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said that close to 950,000 signatures had been gathered for the initiative measure to protect local revenues. She said next week is the deadline to collect signatures. She said the Los Angeles County Division is hosting AB 1234 training for free.

Matt Horton presented a report from SCAG. He said the General Assembly/Regional Council retreat would be held in La Quinta in May. Member Barrios reported that the CEHD had indefinitely tabled the fiscalization of land use issue.

Mike Kodama presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said that the City of Palmdale had chosen to withdraw from the Authority, but the City of Burbank and Bob Hope Airport had asked to join. He said he was working with South Gate on an application for a Caltrans planning grant.

Derrick Alatorre presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He said next month the lawnmower exchange program will take place. He referred the Board to a flyer on a high school environmental fair scheduled for May 27. He distributed a spreadsheet on AB 2766 funds that each city has received.

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said that a blue ribbon committee is meeting monthly through July and that he will be reporting on their activities at each monthly Board meeting.

There was no report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps.

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

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

There were no matters from the Board members.

President Stefenhagen announced a Meet and Greet and Roundtable Discussion with Jared Blumenfeld, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator, to be held at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex on June 1.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.