

**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
June 2, 2010**

President Stefenhagen called the meeting to order at 6:06 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
Immediate Past President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
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 Susan Tripp, 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 William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Member from the 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 Gustavo Camacho, City of Pico Rivera
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; South Gate Director of Public Works Robert Dickey; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Tom Modica; Cypress Mayor Pro Tem Doug Bailey; Cypress City Manager John Bahorski; Los Alamitos City Manager Jeff Stewart; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershenson; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Officer Derrick Alatorre; SCAG Public Affairs Officer Matt Horton; Youn Sim, Los Angeles County Flood Control District; Gary Hildebrand, Los Angeles County Flood Control District; Adi Liberman, American Lung Association; Dr. David Pham, American Lung Association in California; Sean Wyman, American Lung Association in California; Daniel Friedman, American Lung Association in California; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 JPA; Jose Torres, Lead Senior Supervisor, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Frank Osgood, Author of Region Aroused; 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 Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda

There were no public comments.

President Stefenhagen presented an award acknowledging Downey Assistant City Manager Desi Alvarez for nine years of dedicated service as the Gateway Cities representative on the MTA Technical Advisory Committee. Immediate Past President Bayer accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Alvarez.

There were no matters from staff.

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

Cypress Mayor Pro Tem addressed the Board and requested support for the efforts of the cities of Cypress and Los Alamitos and Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez to obtain \$17 million in funding for the reconstruction of the runway at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. He said that, due to the existing cracks in the runway, air flights to the Joint Forces Training Base have been prohibited. He said the base is the staging base for natural or man-made disasters and play a vital role in the region's emergency services. He said it is the only base between San Diego and San Bernardino from which emergency forces could be deployed. Los Alamitos City Manager Jeff Stewart said that a \$1.5 million short term fix to the runway will only last one and a half years.

It was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Barrows, to send a letter of support from the Board to Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez for her request for \$17 million in funding for repairs to the runway at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Adi Liberman of the American Lung Association introduced Dr. David Pham, a pulmonologist for the American Lung Association in California, who gave a presentation on how poor air quality impacts the health of the communities in the Gateway Cities subregion and southern California in general. He distributed material to the Board from the American Lung Association in California discussing how SB 375 presents an opportunity for communities to improve their land use and transportation planning to reduce the impacts of greenhouse gases and air pollution and their effects on health.

Dr. Pham said that the Lung Association had received a grant to track the impact of pollution on the rate of asthma in children. He said 6.8% of adults in Los Angeles County, 8.1% in South Bay, and 6.5% in Orange County suffer from asthma and the trend is higher among children. He said there is an 89% higher rate of asthma within 400 meters of a freeway versus those who live 1600 meters or more away. He said \$800 million a year is spent in California on asthma treatment.

Mr. Liberman said that he urged the Board to keep these health impacts in mind when developing the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Member Santos asked what things the Lung Association has been doing. Mr. Liberman responded that they had supported AB 32 and SB 375 at the state level and have worked with air districts and local agencies to bring attention to the health issues.

Youn Sim, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, gave a presentation on the District's Watershed Management Modeling System. He gave background on the watershed and the sources of pollution. He described the projects needed to meet specific water quality goals and said that the District had developed a business plan based on a limited budget. Mr. Sim said that the District is developing a wastewater management strategy with stakeholder input through a technical advisory committee. He said the strategy is based on a model developed by the U.S. EPA. He said the system can handle a full range of scale from the entire watershed down to site specific and come up with the most cost effective set of projects.

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

Ken Farfsing reported that the City Managers Steering Committee reviewed the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's Los Angeles County Strategic Plan for Economic Development 2010-14 and recommended that the Board support the Plan. It was moved by Member Barrows, seconded by Member DuBois, to approve the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee to support the LAEDC's Plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ken Farfsing reported that the City Managers Steering Committee had nominated South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami to fill the vacancy for the Gateway Cities representative to the MTA Technical Advisory Committee. He said the City Managers also recommended the nomination of La Mirada Public Works Director Steve Forster to replace Mr. Mostahkami on the MTA Streets and Freeways Subcommittee. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to forward to the League of California Cities the nomination of Mohammad Mostahkami as the Gateway Cities representative to the MTA Technical Advisory Committee. The motion was approved unanimously. President Stefenhagen asked that both the representative and alternate to the MTA Technical Advisory Committee attend the meetings.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Barrows to forward to the League of California Cities the nomination of Steve Forster as the Gateway Cities representative to the MTA Streets and Freeways Subcommittee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member O'Donnell presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He reported that AB 1818 had been pulled by the author because of the opposition it had received. Member O'Donnell thanked the COG cities for opposing the bill. He said the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board had voted to support the upcoming water bond issue.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the project draft reports had been completed on schedule, but that issues concerning the geometrics in the cities of Commerce and South Gate have caused the traffic model to need revision. He said that will add some time to the project and affect the schedule. He said new modeling results should be available by the end of the month. Mr. Wood said the Technical Advisory Committee is going through the process of nominating early action projects, and that sound walls have been approved as the first projects. He reported that a consultant had been selected by the MTA to prepare the Air Quality Action Plan.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the Technical Advisory Committee is presently working on the report on the "hot spots" projects to be funded out of Measure R.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the I-710 gap closure was on the MTA Board agenda and that a large contingent from the Bus Riders Union had shown up to oppose the fare increase that had been approved by the MTA Board in 2007. She said the increases do not affect the elderly, disable, or students. She reported that the Transportation Committee took action to initiate the formation of a subcommittee of three COGs to work on the railroad rights of way issues such as graffiti, trash, and abandoned furniture. \

Member Guerrero presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. She said the Committee had met on May 19th to interview candidates for the vice chair positions

for the local coordinating alliances.

Jerry Wood presented a report on the California High Speed Rail project. He said meetings had been held with all cities and that he had compiled a list of their issues of concern regarding the Los Angeles to Anaheim segment. He said a second segment out of Union Station to San Diego presents a real challenge to the capacity of Union Station. The Deputy Executive Director said that Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham had asked him to report that he had sent out a letter expressing dismay at the lack of information that had been forthcoming to the cities from the High Speed Rail Authority.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said that Caltrans is still working to certify all of the right of way parcels for the I-5/Carmenita Road interchange, and is still hoping to award a contract by December. She said the JPA is working to catch up with the I-710 project on the interchange with I-5.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

Matt Horton presented a report from SCAG. He said that last week SCAG had submitted to CARB an ambitious, but achievable, range of SB 375 targets.

Karen Heit presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said that SCAG had held the first meeting regarding the alternatives analysis on the Los Angeles and Orange County segments of the West Santa Ana Branch route. She said the first steps will be a series of community meetings to develop a Purpose and Need Statement to ultimately make the project eligible for federal funding. She reported that the Bob Hope Airport is formally joining the Authority.

Derrick Alatorre presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He said the nomination forms for the Annual Clean Air Awards are now available and he encouraged cities to make nominations. He said CARB is having a meeting on Monday evening at Commerce City Hall to discuss rail yard emissions.

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said the last meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee would be held on July 6th. He said the findings of the Committee would be presented to the MTA Board later that month.

Jose Torres presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. He thanked the Board for having the Corps involved in projects in the cities. He said labor is available at a rate of \$16 per hour through September.

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

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

There were no matters from Board members.

President Stefenhagen announced that he had appointed Member Bayer to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Homelessness. He said that he would return to the Committee to fill the other vacancy since he would be stepping down next month as President of the Board.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.