

**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 Blvd.
Paramount, California
April 5, 2017**

President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Al Austin, City of Long Beach
Second Vice President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Immediate Past President Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member George Ray, City of Cerritos
Member Ivan Altamirano, City of Commerce
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Joaquin Lanuza, City of Maywood
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello
Member Cheri Kelley, City of Norwalk
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Joseph Martinez, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
Member Doug Drummond, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ABSENT: First Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Fernando Vasquez, City of Downey
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Edwin Hernandez, City of Lynwood
Member from the City of Paramount
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers

Steering Committee; Commerce Interim City Manager Matthew Rodriguez; Jonathan Kraus, Chief of Staff, Long Beach Councilmember Al Austin; Artesia City Clerk Pradeep Elayath; Downey Director of Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; Huntington Park Director of Community Development Sergio Infanzon; La Mirada Director of Public Works Mark Stowell; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Sharon Weissman, Board Deputy, Office of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia; Lance Grindle, Head, City Services, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison, Port of Long Beach; Saeed Ali, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Senator Tony Mendoza; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Tham Nguyen, Manager, Transportation Planning, Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Metro; Gregory Farr, Region Chief, Caltrans; Mark Stanley, Executive Director, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco Rapid Transit; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Kevin Gilhooley, Regional Affairs, SCAG; Meredith Berkson, Director, PATH; Andres Molina, Government Relations Representative, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff; Eduardo Adame, Government Affairs, Lee Andrews Group; Lynda Bybee, LSA Associates; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Analyst Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Austin.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

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

Tham Nguyen, Manager of Transportation Planning for Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Metro Strategic Plan. She said the Chief Executive Officer launched this initiative to build confidence in Metro's ability to adapt to the changing needs of Los Angeles County residents. The last Strategic Plan covered the years 2003-07, with an update in FY 07-08. She identified the four-point purpose is to define Metro's vision of what it means to be a world-class transportation organization; establish goals to achieve that vision; align agency-wide strategies to guide multimodal plans and investments; and drive achievement with benchmarks. She said over 95 meetings have been conducted already with various stakeholders, with 40 still to go in phase 1. She reviewed the next steps, with the goal of Board adoption of the final plan in fall 2017.

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

Mark Stanley, Executive Director of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan. He said the Working Group was created by Assembly Bill 530 (Rendon) in 2015. He said the schedule and planning process has three primary phases: evaluate existing conditions; develop concept plan options; and prepare a draft and final plan. The deadline to complete the revitalization plan is February 2018. Mr. Stanley pointed out that there are three river segment committees: City of Vernon to Rio Hondo; Rio Hondo to Compton Creek; and Compton Creek to the river outlet at the ocean.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the guiding principles for the study, including increasing public access and assets; improving community identity and pride; create continuous green space; enhance connectivity; increase safety; enhance local water capture and use; and provide education among others. He reviewed the engagement opportunities events and upcoming meetings.

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

Nancy Pfeffer, Director of Regional Planning, presented the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee to decline delegation from SCAG to prepare a subregional Sustainable Communities Strategy in the 2020 planning cycle. She said the recommendation was based on legal and cost considerations.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Davis, to approve the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee to decline delegation from SCAG to prepare a subregional Sustainable Communities Strategy. The motion was approved unanimously.

Transportation Committee Chairman Garcia reported that one application had been received for the vacancy for an elected official member of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council, that of Pico Rivera Councilmember David Armenta.

It was moved by Member Delgado, seconded by Member Ray, to approve the nomination of Pico Rivera Councilmember David Armenta to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

Second Vice President Dutra presented a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Measure M Education Campaign Deficit. He reviewed the current education campaign deficit, saying it totaled over \$125,000, largely from the lack of participation by eight member cities. He said this created a severe cash flow problem for the COG because of its minimal reserve. He said the departure of the Executive Director did present the opportunity to realize savings to offset the deficit over time, but that the immediate cash

flow problem needed to be addressed.

Second Vice President Dutra said the recommendations of the committee were to: 1) direct staff to send out invoices for the FY 17-18 annual dues early to address the immediate cash flow problem; 2) send a letter from the COG Board to the eight underpaying cities requesting remittance for the special assessment; 3) use General Fund savings from the vacancy in the Executive Director position to potentially defray a portion of the COG's deficit; and 4) provide direction to the committee to continue to study options for longer-term financial health.

Member Garcia suggested that rather than invoicing non-paying cities for the Measure M Education Campaign that a special assessment to create a COG stabilization fund would be more favorably received by those cities.

Member Tercero recommended substituting the special assessment for a stabilization fund to recommendation number 2 from the committee. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee with the amendment presented by Member Tercero. The motion was approved unanimously, with Member Martinez abstaining.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He reported that the Proposition 1 grant award agreements had been executed.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the Project Committee had met on March 30, but did not have a quorum. He gave a status report on the project milestones.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said there were no meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee or the Corridor Cities Committee in March.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file committee reports A through C. The motion was approved unanimously.

MTA Director Robert Garcia presented a report from the Transportation Committee. He said there had been pretty heated discussion at the Metro Board meeting regarding the formula for the Measure M local return. He said Metro staff had recommended a minimum \$100,000 local return, but that he and Supervisor Hahn are trying to figure out a way to increase local return to smaller cities. He encouraged a discussion on how the \$244 million set-aside for subregional equity in the Gateway Cities should be spent.

Director Garcia reported that the Transportation Committee recommended support for SB1 (Beall) and SB 4 (Mendoza) to increase funding for transportation in the state.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Tercero, to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Committee to support SB 1 and SB 4. The motion

was approved unanimously.

Director Garcia reported that nominations for two community member seats on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council were received by the current members, Samuel Pena and Joseph Strapac. He said the Transportation Committee had recommended that these two members be reappointed.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Saleh, seconded by Member DuBois, to approve the nominations of Samuel Pena and Joseph Strapac to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meredith Berkson presented a report from PATH. She referred the Board to the Homeless Count data from 2015 and 2016 and the February 2017 outreach statistics. She said she would be meeting with the staffs of supervisors Hahn and Solis regarding next year's funding for the homeless program. She said tomorrow would be the second meeting of the Measure H Advisory Committee. She reported that 33 homeless individuals were housed last month.

It was approved by Member Chico, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nancy Pfeffer presented a report on the Cap and Trade program. She reported that the COG did not receive a \$30,000 Best Practices grant. She said it was disappointing that we continue to see a pattern where the bulk of the Cap and Trade money is going to the Bay Area. However, she said there was good news in that South Gate City Manager Michael Flad had been appointed to the Strategic Growth Council.

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

There was no report from the I-5 Consortium Cities JPA.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She reviewed the revenue sources for SB 1, which is a \$52 billion transportation funding package over ten years. She said \$15 billion is reserved for local streets and roads. She said the vote would take place tomorrow and requires a two-thirds vote in both houses.

There was no report from SCAG.

Michael Kodama presented a report from Eco-Rapid Transit. He reported on the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the environmental process that is underway.

There was no report from the South Coast AQMD.

There was no report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council.

Member Hurtado announced that this was his last meeting as a Board member and said it had been a pleasure serving.

Member Lima said he wanted to recognize Board Member Ray, who was also attending his last meeting. Member Ray said it had been a real pleasure to serve on the Board.

Member Wilson recognized Member Kelley, who would also be leaving office.

Member DuBois thanked Member Kelley and Member Mike Mendez for their service representing the City of Norwalk.

President Austin said the COG is entering uncharted ground with the resignation of Executive Director Richard Powers after 21 years. He said the Executive Committee had met to take a deeper dive into the COG's programs and activities. He said new faces will be coming onto the Board and asked staff to orient them. He thanked staff for their work.

President Austin announced the appointments of Second Vice President Dutra to the Transportation Committee and Member Sharif to the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee.

Member Garcia said it is important that we honor Richard Powers for his work for the regions. He said he has been a fantastic constituent of his.

Member Chico announced that Supervisor Hahn would be honoring Mr. Powers at the April 18th meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn to a closed session at 8:03 p.m.

The Board returned from closed session at 8:55 p.m. The Deputy General Counsel announced that the Board had met in closed session and that no action had been taken.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Joseph
Deputy Executive Director