

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021  
4:30 P.M. Meeting**

Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
MEETING REMOTE LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

**Chair - MTA Director, Whittier Councilmember – Fernando Dutra**

Call to order was deferred until a quorum was reached. Meeting called to order at by MTA Director Councilmember Fernando Dutra – City of Whittier. Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

#		City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy	COG Board President	X	
2.	Ali Saleh	COG 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	X	
3.	Marisela Santana	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
4.	Fernando Dutra, Chair	MTA Board of Directors	X	
5.	Emma Sharif	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
6.	Maria Davila	Mayor of Long Beach	X	
7.	Luke Klipp	Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
8.	Martin Reyes	Office of Sup. Solis		X
9.	Lisa Patton	Transit Operator/Long Beach Transit	X	
10.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
11.	Thaddeus McCormack	CM Steering Committee, Chair	X	
12.	Michelle Burke/Karen Lee	City Manager, City of Artesia		X
13.	Kevin Jackson/Tyler Bonnano-Curley	City of Long Beach	X	
14.	Bill Pagett	Public Works Officer	X	
15.	Ed Norris	Public Works Officer		X
<b>Total =</b>			12	3

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Karen Heit, Jose Jauregui, Mahogany Smith, Nancy Michali - GCCOG Staff: Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates: Mark Dierking, Steven Lee, Raffi Hamparian, Michael Turner – LA Metro, Michael Kodama – Eco-Rapid Transit JPA, Lisa Rapp, City of Lakewood,, John Moreno – City of Paramount, Shannon De Long – City of Whittier, Cristina Skacan, Nina Turner, Theresa Dau-Ngo – Port of Long Beach.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35, Introductions were made by roll call. There were no public comments or amendments to the Agenda. The minutes were removed from the Consent Calendar for a correction; an amendment to the last sentence where Long Beach Port Commissioner Sharon Weissman wanted a clarification that the language regarding ZE truck was a request for more ZE trucks and not additional trucks in general. The Consent Calendar was approved as corrected.

Metro Director, Whittier Councilmember Fernando Dutra presented his MTA report. He began with an update of the Zero Emission (ZE) Truck Motion and the input from the Metro Finance and Budget Committee as well as from the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice (CEHAJ). He thanked Supervisor Hahn and staff for assisting with the Motion and thanked Supervisor Solis and her staff as well. He briefly discussed next steps and the parties that would participate in the development of this program. COG staff will send out the adopted Motion and the Hahn press release.

Director Dutra next reported on the Metro planning activities leading towards the adoption of a Locally Preferred Alignment (LPA) for the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit Light Rail Corridor project and mentioned John Moreno, City Manager, City of Paramount who will address the Committee later. He mentioned that the MTA would be introducing a funding plan in November/December.

Lastly, he discussed the Metro Fareless System Initiative (FSI) and the increased participation of school districts including LAUSD that serves some Gateway Cities such as South Gate, Huntington Park and Maywood. He also mentioned that Whittier and Long Beach school districts are also in the process of approving participation.

He then introduced MTA representatives Raffi Hamparian and Michael Turner to give the federal and state legislative reports, Michael Turner thanked Director Dutra for the ZE Truck Motion and then went on to discuss the state legislation that may provide funding for this program. A key element is there is no transportation budget in the current budget proposal; there is hope that a portion of the budget surplus will go to transportation and funding for the 2028 Olympics. There is hope that this surplus funding will be allocated in January. Mr. Turner discussed an MTA bill that was signed into law, AB 917, that allows for forward facing cameras on buses. The cameras will be used to capture evidence of bus lane parking violation and pass them on to the responsible local jurisdictions for action.

Director Dutra called for questions for Mr. Turner, Luke Klipp, Office of Supervisor Hahn asked about the state budget allocation. Mr. Klipp mentioned Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's letter that referenced the Sepulveda Tunnel and the Foothill Extension projects but not WSAB as funding priorities. Mr. Klipp expressed concern that the Speaker is not hearing enough about WSAB and the project may be overlooked for additional funding. Mr. Turner stated that all LA Metro documents explaining Los Angeles transit priorities had WSAB at the top of the list. Director Dutra asked about US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Governor Newsom's proposal to create

a list of electric projects. He asked about the timing of the creation of these projects. Mr. Turner relayed that CalSTA has approached the MTA about creating a list of projects that fit. Michael Cano, MTA Freight Planning Manager is taking the lead on developing a list. The MTA is developing a list for potential loan and grant funding.

Sharon Weissman, brought up that Justin Ramirez is leaving the Mayor's Office in Long Beach to reporting to Secretary Buttigieg's Chief of Staff.

Raffi Hamparian discussed the infrastructure bill and its progress through Congress. It's been approved by a bi-partisan Senate and is currently hung-up in reconciliation in the House of Representatives. Reconciliation still facing challenges with the democratic majority. The progressive majority is ready to vote for the bill. The Reconciliation currently contains a funding source eligible to support fare free systems as well as for new buses and clean energy buses and new transit projects. Mr. Hamparian emphasized that WSAB is the top priority for federal funding. Hamparian mentioned Justice40 and the commitment to disadvantaged communities with this administration. He explained that 40% of all funding should go to disadvantaged communities as part of 21 programs. WSAB is a natural for submission to this program.

Mr. Hamparian mentioned that the financial plan will be an important determinant for Justice40 and that there is scrutiny at the federal level. Earmarks are no longer in the Reconciliation bill because of senate rules and the appropriations will have to get funding through the federal continuing resolution. South Gate Councilmember Maria Davila spoke about the importance of the Justice40 and the underserved nature of the WSAB communities. Director Dutra asked for questions and asked one of his own. He asked about SB 11 that allocated unused COVID money for transportation. There is concern about expending this money and what sort of infrastructure gets build. Mr. Hamparian does not know how much funding is available in LA County from cities and other transportation agencies. MTA has drawn down on most of its funds.

Director Dutra introduced John Moreno, Co-Chair of the WSAB City Managers' TAC. Mr. Moreno gave a background on the last two years of activity for the TAC and the culmination to a recommended LPA. Mr. Moreno reviewed the project Alternatives; explained Alternative 1 and 3, and that the CM group originally discussed supporting Alt. 3. The TAC then determined that they needed to support the ultimate completion of the line to Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS). Upon reflection, the CM decided that a more constrained approach would be to support Alt, 1. with conditions to build the entire project in phases. The TAC supports a phased version of Alt. 1 with Phase I from the City of Artesia to the Slauson A (Blue) Line Station. Phase 2 will be from Slauson to LAUS after the necessary studies to determine the options through the City of Los Angeles are completed. In order to plan the final phase by 2024 and begin construct by 2031, the third condition is for Metro to provide the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Measure M Subregional Equity Program (SEP) funds to offset the 3% local contribution requirement. Director Dutra called for questions, Luke Klipp is asking what the Board is going to see as far as a recommendation and how Alt. 1 may be

asking for too much. Mr. Moreno replied that project phasing is acceptable. Bill Paget asked what happens at Slauson would there be a bus bridge? Mr. Moreno replied that there would be a transfer to the A Line or perhaps there would be a bus bridge mimicking the ultimate alignment. GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer thanked Nancy Michali for all her hard work on the project. Thaddeus McCormack asked if the Blue Line terminated at 7<sup>th</sup> metro, Luke Klipp stated that next year upon completion of the Downtown Regional Connector it will continue on through Azusa next year.

Lisa Rapp, Public Works Director, City of Lakewood gave the Metro TAC update. Ms. Rapp reported on the State ATP Cycle 6 and the California Transportation Commission having site visits – this is an opportunity to see what type of project they're looking for. MTA's Equity Focused Communities criteria will be used for project recommendation.

Ms. Rapp talked about the proposed Metro Youth Council that would assist with the planning and development of projects. This program is an excellent opportunity to give youth an opportunity to participate in transportation planning.

Rapp went on to discussed phone data that is used for determining transit usage. The data will become available to help in transportation and other planning efforts.

Lastly, she gave a report of Los Angeles River Bike Path and the Downtown Los Angeles- Maywood gap. The project is currently in the CEQA review phase and will have to undergo NEPA because actions involving the US Army Corps of Engineers. There are varying designs that are being considered – some of which are problematic. The project is being envisioned as complete by 2028. There may be difficult ROW issues including the railroads and in the City and County of Los Angeles. Ms. Rapp also announced that she is going to retire at the end of March and that Lakewood staff and COG alternate Ed Norris would be filling in. Director Dutra asked how many members were allowed on the Youth Council; Ms. Rapp replied that there are 25 spots.

Director Dutra asked for a Motion to Receive and File all reports. Approval was taken by roll call.

There were no matters from staff and no further questions and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

