

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, October 6, 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 5:16 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	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	x	
7.	Luke Klipp	Office of Sup. Hahn	x	
8.	Martin Reyes	Office of Sup. Solis		x
9.	TBD	Transit Operator		X
10.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
11.	Thaddeus McCormack	CM Steering Committee, Chair	X	
12.	Bill Rawlings/Karen Lee	City Manager, City of Artesia	X	
13.	Kevin Jackson/Tyler Bonanno-Curley	City of Long Beach		x
14.	Bill Pagett	Public Works Officer	x	
15.	Ed Norris	Public Works Officer		x
<b>Total =</b>			9	6

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Jose Jauregui, Mahogany Smith, Nancy Michali - GCCOG Staff: Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates: Mark Dierking, Steven Lee, Raffi Hamparian, Desarae Jones, Michael Cano, Maritza Romero – LA Metro, Michael Kodama – Eco-Rapid Transit JPA, Lisa Rapp, City of Lakewood, Theresa Dau-Ngo, Cristina Skacan – Port of Long Beach, Hammer Sui, James Shankel, Jeff Newman – Caltrans, Roya Falahati – Los Angeles County.

There was no quorum present; the Committee agreed to hear receive and file reports until a quorum can be reached. Approval of the consent calendar was also postponed pending a quorum.

MTA Director Fernando Dutra introduced Lisa Rapp, Public Works Director, City of Lakewood and COG representative on the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Ms. Rapp gave her MTA TAC report; the TAC will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future. The Metro Board will determine when in-person meetings will resume. She explained that meeting attendance has improved with virtual meetings. She noted that MTA had free fares in honor of Clean Air Day. She talked about state funding availability for active transportation programs and reviewed the application deadlines. She reported that MTA staff gave an update on the progress of the I-710 Corridor project. MTA unveiled plans for a hazard mitigation plan that will contain responses to natural and man-made hazards. Having this plan will allow the organization to apply for FEMA funds. Ms. Rapp talked about the 2020 Metro Construction Market Analysis that highlighted the rising costs of construction materials, lack of qualified labor, and lack of housing for workers. She referred to her written notes in the Agenda. Director Dutra also noted that labor and materials shortages will come together during the height of infrastructure construction. He emphasized that it is a great opportunity to steer high school graduates towards highly paid construction jobs.

Director Dutra introduced Raffi Hamparian, Director of Federal Affairs for MTA to give the federal legislative report. Mr. Hamparian described the lack of a solution to the passing of the infrastructure bill and the budget reconciliation bill. Mr. Hamparian cited the dramatic increase in funding for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) that includes funding for heavy and medium drayage trucks as well as funding for “smart roads”. Mr. Hamparian stressed that MTA must be nimble and quick to be able to access funding. He talked about the increased availability of INFRA grant funding and Capital Improvement Grants (CIG)/Section 5309. He talked about Section 1100 that, if approved, could support free fares and provide for additional transit capital funding.

Mr. Hamparian passed the presentation along to Desarae Jones, Manager for State Legislative Affairs. She talked about the Governor signing MTA AB 811 which will help accelerate procurement and Senate Bill 44 which will help projects like the West Santa Ana Branch avoid CEQA challenges and litigation. The last bill, AB 719, allows for front facing cameras on transit buses to catch bus lane violations.

Ms. Jones turned to the State Budget conversations and the transportation allocations. She cited broadband, zero-emission (ZE) vehicles and climate resiliency funding that has been approved, and that these programs will be accessible this year. Lastly, she touched on CAPTI and the advancement of GHG reduction. The State is no longer supportive of expanding highway infrastructure and expanding capacity, but does support ZE vehicles and infrastructure. There is a need for dialogue on expansion of lanes and reconciling capacity enhancement with the focus from the state’s Climate Action Plan for

Transportation Investments (CAPTI). She mentioned a Powerpoint on CAPTI from the May MTA Planning and Programming Committee that is helpful.

A quorum was achieved, and the meeting was formally called to order, introductions were taken by roll call. There were no amendments to the Agenda or public input. The Consent Calendar was approved. The reports that were heard were received and filed.

Hammer Sui from Caltrans announced the Clean California local grant workshop coming up and would eventually be available on line. He described the Clean California Program and its component elements and how they are envisioned to work. He went on to talk about the length of the programs and the \$1.1 billion budget. He went into detail on the local grants for projects like litter abatement and beautification projects and the available \$296 million. The program is geared towards equity focused communities. He reviewed the eligible project components, including: lighting, active transportation, fencing, and signage as examples.

Mr. Sui reviewed the grant proposal schedule and deadlines, then asked for questions. Member Weissman asked who is eligible for applying for these grants. Cities are eligible but may partner with other entities.

Director Dutra introduced Nancy Michali to give an update on the WSAB City Managers' TAC. She explained that the decision on the Locally Preferred Alignment (LPA) will be adopted by the Metro Board in January. She went on to review the various alternatives that were analyzed in the environmental documents that were out for public review in July. The final environmental document will be approved in 2022.

She highlighted the important points for the determination of the LPA: funding availability and how the project performs. Director Dutra indicated that he is hearing from cities and enthusiasm and support for the line is extremely high.

Director Dutra began his MTA report by asking for feedback on a proposed Motion for the Metro Board. He mentioned the free fares being provided for Clean Air Day. He reported on the Board approving a demonstration for fare-free transit for K-14 students and encouraged cities to work with their operators and schools to join the project.

He went over the details for the adoption of the LPA for the WSAB and referenced Nancy Michali's report. He then requested feedback on the Zero Emission (ZE) Truck Motion that would be introduced at the MTA Finance and Budget Committee for the development of a clean truck program for I-710. The Motion proposed that the \$50 million previously allocated for ZE trucks be reinstated to support an independent project without the I-710 Record of Decision (ROD) and committed to matching whatever state and federal funds are becoming available. He reviewed a slide that listed programs that can reduce GHG and other pollutants. He went over the COG's need for these ZE trucks and the need to reach small businesses and fleet owners. He talked about supporting job development and training associated with these trucks. He asked for comments and feedback either now or to be sent to Nancy Pfeffer, COG Executive Director. Sharon Weissman asked

that the Motion consider asking for more trucks coming to the San Pedro Bay Ports area because of the burden borne by local communities. Karen Lee, City of Artesia, asked for a clarification concerning the resolution of the outcome for the Record of Decision (ROD) for the I-710. Ms. Pfeffer explained the contingency with the ROD and the allocation of funds. Luke Klipp thanked staff for the Motion and pledged to work with the COG office to get the Motion adopted. Sharon Weissman offered up a harbor tour for the Port of Long Beach to facilitate an understanding of the way the port operates. The tour is limited to vaccinated participants. The tour will be October 18 starting at 4:00 and lasting about 2 hours.

There were no questions and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.