

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, CA 90723
July 1, 2020**

Zoom Conference

GCCOG President Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

PRESENT: President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood (E)
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower (E)
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey (E)
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Marilyn Sanabria, City of Huntington Park (E)
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada (E)
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member David Torres, City of Montebello
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs (E)
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill (E)
1st Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate (E)
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier (E)
Member Kimberly Ortega, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Steven Neal, Port of Long Beach
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Martin Reyes, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT: 2nd Vice President Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon (E)
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos (E)
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce (E)
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Member Cory Moss, City of Industry
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach

Member Heber Marquez, City of Maywood
Member Vilma Cuellar Stallings, City of Paramount
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn (E)
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
(E) Executive Committee

ALSO PRESENT: Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager - City of Lakewood; Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison - Port of Long Beach; Norman Emerson – Emerson Associates; Nancy Pfeffer, Stephanie Cadena, Joel Arevalos, Genny Cisneros, Sandra Mora, Ivy Tsai - COG staff; Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs – City of Long Beach; Sarah Patterson – SCAG; Karen Lee, Administrative Analyst – City of Artesia; Luke Klipp, Metro Board Deputy to Mayor Robert Garcia – City of Long Beach; Andres Molina – WSP; Sumire Gant – Sumire Gant Consulting; Gregory Farr – CalTrans; Mark Dierking – LA Metro; Dianne Guevara – City of South Gate

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Office Assistant Joel Arevalos.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Pfeffer reported that the Zoom software has issued a change. Coming July 19, 2020 Zoom will require a password for all meetings, so members will see that in the future when logging into Zoom.

President DuBois moved on to the Consent Calendar. A motion was made to approve the consent calendar and it was seconded by Member Margarita Rios. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved unanimously.

President DuBois moved to Reports from Committees.

For the Report from the Gateway Cities COG Transportation Committee, Mayor Robert Garcia reported on the two current major focuses of Metro. The first is on the future of policing on transit, how future bus transit should look, and how to reinvest dollars on safety and services such as for homelessness and mental health support. The Metro Board recently passed a series of related motions, highlighting the importance of serving the needs of riders. The second is on the budget and impacts from COVID-19. The Metro Board is looking at ways of moving forward on these topics.

The Transportation Committee heard reports on legislation and activities happening in Sacramento and in Washington D.C. On the federal side, the House has approved a large infrastructure transportation reauthorization bill

(INVEST Act). While the bill has passed the House, it is not likely to get passed in the Senate. Mayor Garcia said that depending what happens in November 2020, there could be further movement on this bill. On the state side, California State Senator Weiner introduced a new bill on CEQA exemptions for transit projects, which if passed, could have significant improvements for projects in Gateway Cities region. That bill is continuing to move forward.

Mayor Garcia presented three items for the Board's approval today. First, the Transportation Committee requests approval for submitting a support letter commending Metro on the Goods Movement Strategic Plan. Second, they request approval to submit a support letter commenting on Metro's Long-Range Transportation Plan. Third, the Committee requests approval to submit a letter in response to Metro Board Motion 38.1 on the Development of a Uniform Process for Use of Subregional Equity Program Funding.

Member Rios made a motion to receive and file, and approve the requests. The motion was seconded by Member Pedro Aceituno. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved unanimously.

President DuBois moved on to Report B. Director Pfeffer presented an overview of the Gateway Cities COG's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The COG's budget is balanced with revenue projected to slightly exceed planned expenditures. The total revenues are higher than they have been in past COG budgets. The primary reason for this is the \$2 million in funding directed to the COG from the County for efforts related to Homelessness. Sources of revenue are summarized in the staff report, with more than 50% of revenues coming from project-related sources that will continue for the next 1 to 2 years. Otherwise, the budget is fairly consistent with those of past years. There is no increase to membership dues.

The COG's budget for direct labor is up by approximately 10% from last year. This is due to increased hours for our Planning Director and Transportation Analyst, to reflect the need in those areas, and to provide employee healthcare benefits. Director Pfeffer acknowledged Administrative Director Genny Cisneros' dedication to the healthcare program. The Board's approval today will set aside the funds for the healthcare program. Next month, the Board will consider implementing the program, including approving a resolution. Pfeffer highlighted that staff has found the funding within the COG to cover this and will not be increasing dues for this effort. Additionally, if the COG Board ever feels the financial commitment is not sustainable, the Board is allowed to withdraw the COG from the program once every year.

Director Pfeffer directed Board Members to the footnote on page 114 of the agenda, which says that the COG's revenue estimate is based on the assumption that member assessments will be paid in full. However due to the COVID-19 economic downturn, the COG is committed to working with the Board as needed if this revenue is impacted, with the goal of running the

COG as normally as possible.

Director Pfeffer then walked through the workplan of each of the COG's four priority areas. Under Transportation, the COG will continue to collaborate with member cities, the County and Metro to develop high priority highway and transit projects, including the I-710 Corridor, 91/605/405, West Santa Ana Branch and Goldline Eastside Extension Phase II. This work is especially important this year given the reduced finances of Metro and shift in priorities that may result. The COG's transportation engineers will continue to work with member cities on complete streets planning along arterial corridors, including Atlantic, Florence, Imperial and Telegraph.

In Air Quality and Climate, the COG staff will continue to track the South Coast AQMD process for the AB 617 Program. Two communities in the COG were involved in that program, with community emission reduction plans developed last year. This year, we have one more community involved in that process. The COG will also be working on an Urban Tree Canopy and Community Engagement project through the California Resilience Challenge Grant, and continue to help cities take advantage of the energy efficiency and savings programs through our Regional Partnership with SoCalREN. Using these sources of funding, the COG will also have the support of a CivicSpark Fellow for these project activities.

In Housing and Homelessness, the COG will continue the work started by our County-funded Homelessness Program Manager Gilbert Saldate. Under the direction of the Homelessness TAC, the Committee on Homelessness and the COG Board, Gilbert will further engage cities in our homelessness efforts and help establish communication between the cities and the County agencies that support those experiencing homelessness. In Housing, COG Staff will continue working with city planners to advocate for policies that will help our region, while also responding to state legislation. This year, we'll be using state housing planning funding to hire a Director of Regional Development at the COG. We will also have the services of a second CivicSpark Fellow in the area of Housing, funded by HCD and at no cost to the COG. The Fellow will be focused on activities related to pandemic recovery and response and housing development.

Lastly in Economic Development, our Economic Development Working Group will continue to focus on a recovery plan for our region. The group is seeking possible federal relief funding to help in that effort. Our Chair of the working group, Jerry Caton, will also continue working on an incentive to rezone areas to residential use by allowing cities to keep property tax revenue to pay for services. We were able to get this idea introduced as a bill and are now looking to get it amended into housing legislation that is moving this year. Director Pfeffer concluded by saying that if it were not for the uncertainty that we are facing in the pandemic, this would be a terrific budget for the COG. The COG's grant and program funding allows us to continue collaboration across our policy areas and helps us best serve our region.

President DuBois asked if the COG has an escape plan, should everything break loose. Director Pfeffer replied that the staff will work with the Board to find a way through if it gets to that. The COG has some reserve and a line of credit available, if needed, to keep the COG running and adjusting to the reality.

Member Ray Dunton complimented staff on the Budget and said he is pleased with it growing and the reserve. Member Dunton made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Member Jesse Alvarado. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved unanimously.

President DuBois moved on to Report C. Director Pfeffer reported that this a request from SCAG for the COG to support them in sending a letter to legislative leaders asking for a deadline extension for cities' Housing Elements. Under current law, these would be due in October 2021. Since SCAG has deferred the full adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, the final RHNA numbers will not be made available to cities until February 2021, giving cities only about 6 months to complete their Housing Elements. This will be a large task for cities, especially as they try to deal with larger RHNA numbers than in the past cycles. COVID-19 has also had a huge impact on local budgets and has reorganized staff activities and priorities. It will also be challenging for cities to get the needed community input and outreach completed in time. For all of these reasons, the COG staff and the City Managers Steering Committee agree it would be a good idea to support SCAG's request to send a letter requesting an extension for cities.

First Vice President Maria Davila made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Member Rios. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved unanimously.

President DuBois moved on to the Election of Officers. She gave an overview of the process for four COG Officers positions up for election, with COG Counsel Ivy Tsai to help conduct the process of election by the Board via roll call in accordance with the Brown Act. The four COG Officers are automatically placed on the Executive Committee. Normally another 8 members would be elected to serve on the Executive Committee. However, the current COG Officers have recommended to keep the remaining 8 officers in place until the COG Board can meet in person and conduct the usual process for electing those members.

President DuBois asked for nominations for President. Member Neal asked for clarification if we are keeping the same makeup of the Board Officers. President DuBois clarified that we are keeping the same Executive Committee but electing new officers. The current officers are President

DuBois, 1st Vice President Davila, 2nd Vice President Cinde Cassidy and Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra. These are the four positions up for election.

Member Ed Wilson moved to have 1st Vice President Maria Davila as President. Member Rios seconded. COG Counsel Tsai asked for other nominations for clarity of the record. Member Wilson moved for nominations to be closed and Member Marisela Santana seconded.

GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call. First Vice-President Davila abstained. The motion was approved.

President DuBois congratulated 1st Vice-President Davila as the new President. President Davila thanked the Board and Chair DuBois, and said she looks forward to meeting in person and connecting with everyone on the Board.

Chair DuBois asked for nominations for 1st Vice President. Member Ali Saleh motioned for Member Cinde Cassidy. It was seconded by President Davila. Chair DuBois asked for additional nominations. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair DuBois asked for nominations for Second Vice President. Member Alex Saab motioned for Member Ali Saleh. It was seconded by Member Santana. Chair DuBois asked for any other nominations. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair DuBois moved to nominations for Immediate Past President. COG Counsel Tsai clarified that the position of Immediate Past President is automatically held by the previous president, unless there are any objections. Chair DuBois asked for objections. Hearing none, she said that while there are a lot of challenges to come, she looks forward to our work at the COG under the new leadership.

There were no Matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no Matters from the President.

Adjournment: Chair DuBois adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director