

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments 16401 Paramount Blvd.  
Paramount, California  
October 6, 2021  
Zoom Conference

GCCOG Chair Cinde Cassidy called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Roll call was taken by GCCOG Administrative Assistant Joel Arevalos.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Tony Lima	Artesia	X	
2.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy (E)	Avalon (President)	X	
3.	Ali Saleh (E)	Bell (1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President)	X	
4.	Raymond Dunton (E)	Bellflower	X	
5.	Maria Pulido	Bell Gardens	X	
6.	Naresh Solanki	Cerritos		X
7.	Oralia Rebollo (E)	Commerce	X	
8.	Emma Sharif	Compton	X	
9.	Elizabeth Alcantar	Cudahy	X	
10.	Sean Ashton (E)	Downey	X	
11.	Luis Roa	Hawaiian Gardens	X	
12.	Marilyn Sanabria (E)	Huntington Park		X
13.	Cory Moss	Industry		X
14.	Ed Eng (E)	La Mirada	X	
15.	Ariel Pe	Lakewood		X
16.	Suely Saro (E)	Long Beach		X
17.	Roberto Uranga	Long Beach	X	
18.	Marisela Santana	Lynwood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President)		X
19.	Heber Marquez	Maywood		X
20.	Kimberly Cobos-Cawthorne	Montebello	X	
21.	Margarita Rios	Norwalk	X	
22.	Vilma Cuellar Stallings	Paramount	X	
23.	Raul Elias	Pico Rivera	X	
24.	Joe Angel Zamora (E)	Santa Fe Springs		X
25.	Edward Wilson (E)	Signal Hill	X	
26.	Maria Davila (E)	South Gate (Immediate Past President)	X	
27.	William Davis	Vernon	X	
28.	Fernando Dutra (E)	Whittier	X	
29.	Herlinda Chico (E)	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
30.	Kimberly Ortega	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis	X	
31.	Gabriela Cid	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell		X
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
		(E) Executive Committee	<b>Total =</b>	
			<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Marisa Perez, Karen Heit, Gilbert Saldate, Mahogany Smith-Christopher, Gilbert Saldate, Jose Jauregui, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Norman Emerson,

Emerson & Associates; Michael Kodama, Eco-Rapid Transit; Kristine Guerrero, CalCities; Jeff Newman, James Shankel, Gregory Farr – Caltrans; Jan Cicco, Adelaide Hsu – Cicco Solutions; Melissa Burke, City of Artesia; Linda Hollinsworth, Hawaiian Gardens; Tyler Bonanno-Curley, City of Long Beach; Grace Weltman, Communities in Motion; Danielle Soto, LBC; Steven Lee, Mark Dierking, Devon Deming – Metro; Charlene Palmer, NCE; Kim Tachiki-Chin, Office of Representative Roybal-Allard; Christina Skacan, POLB; Sarah Patterson, SCAG.

Chair Cassidy asked if there were any amendments; Member Dutra pulled Item S from the Consent Calendar. Chair Cassidy stated that she would be moving Matters from President to the beginning of each meeting. She shared two inspirational quotes to members of the Board. She also thanked Sheriff Alex Villanueva for meeting with the Board.

There were no public comments at this meeting. Chair Cassidy read information related to providing public comments to the Board.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer introduced Jose Jauregui, new CivicSpark fellow for housing. Mr. Jauregui provided brief comments.

Ms. Pfeffer stated that the Local Government Commission sent out a call for agencies to sign on to a group letter requesting the California Air Resources Board to conduct greenhouse gas inventories for all cities and counties across the state. She signed on to the group letter on behalf of the COG.

Ms. Pfeffer also gave an update on the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee. Since the last Board meeting, the Committee has met twice, on September 20<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Committee continues to be in learning mode, receiving information that will help in its deliberations.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Committee received a report from its members who serve on the Metro I-710 Task Force. These four members include Committee Chair Elizabeth Alcantar, Ali Saleh, Oralia Rebollo, and Suely Saro. The members reported that the first meeting of the Metro Task Force provided familiar background information on the history of the project. These members recommended to the Task Force to expand community engagement through strategies such as engaging school districts.

Next, the COG staff updated the Committee on efforts to advance a clean truck program associated with the I-710. At the Board's direction, a joint letter has been sent from Metro and the COG to the California Air Resources Board and California Energy Commission requesting their collaboration. The Committee supported pursuing broad ranging support for this initiative through CBO's and stakeholder organizations.

After these updates, the Committee heard informational presentations on three topics. First, in response to the Committee Vice Chair's request, the consultants presented a description of the environmental impacts identified for the alternatives studied to date. These included air quality emissions impacts, cost, cross-section profiles, right-of-way impacts, mobility, congestion and delay, safety, and other environmental impacts.

Second, the Committee had an informational presentation by Metro staff on Metro's Equity Tool. This tool has been specifically developed within Metro to monitor both process and outcomes for Metro projects, including the 710. The tool is intended to identify disparities in mobility, economic opportunities, and health outcomes; understand root causes of these disparities; and develop ways to ensure more equitable outcomes.

Third, the Committee heard an informational presentation by consultants on tools to assess multimodal transportation in the Corridor through transportation modeling. These tools will be used to help Metro's 710 Task Force and the Ad Hoc Committee understand and evaluate potential strategies that are of interest in the corridor.

On October 4, the Committee again received updates and informational presentations. The COG staff reviewed with the Committee, a proposed potential draft motion to be introduced by Director Dutra at Metro, advancing a Clean Truck Program on the 710. Committee members were supportive and expressed the priority that any financial incentives be accessible to small business owners.

The Committee heard an informational presentation from consultants on the air quality emissions challenges in the corridor. This presentation explained the air quality evaluation process and concerns that led U.S. EPA to issue its letter in March stating that the project must conduct additional analyses. Even with zero tailpipe emissions, vehicles on the 710 still create particulate emissions from tires, brakes, and road dust, which would need to be mitigated for any project to pass this additional analysis. Up to now, EPA has not yet accepted any mitigation measures for these kinds of emissions.

Lastly, the Committee heard from consultants who reviewed the list of previously studied strategies on the 710, and the reasons they were rejected or included in the project. Strategies such as "maximum transit" implementation, zero emissions truck lanes with tolls, express bus on the 710, and HOV carpool lanes on the 710 were all evaluated and eliminated. Strategies such as "maximum goods movement" and bike and pedestrian crossings were evaluated and included.

Chair Cassidy moved to the Consent Calendar. She asked Member Dutra to begin discussion on Agenda Item S, Matters from the Port of Long Beach. Director Dutra stated during his listening sessions with cities, he heard that cities along the I-710 do not feel connected to the benefits and opportunities related to the Ports. He

gave a brief summary of the Port of Long Beach's Community Sponsorship Program, which is approved by the Harbor Commission. Member Dutra asked that the Port reach out to the Southeast LA cities to help them apply for this sponsorship opportunity.

Member Weissman stated that she had discussed this with Member Dutra previously and that this was a matter of great concern for her. In regards to Harbor Commission assignments, her first choice was to chair the community sponsorships committee. She stated that she is the committee chair now and was able to increase the budget from \$800,000 to \$1 million per year. Member Weissman has asked to meet with Port staff to see if there are any issues with promoting this program to the Southeast LA cities within the funding guidelines. She also hopes to increase the budget this year to offer more support and will return to the COG with an update on this issue. The Port will open up the next cycle in March 2022, and she hopes to have this addressed by that time. She concluded with an invitation for a Harbor tour on October 18 at 4 pm for COG board members.

Chair Cassidy asked to approve the Consent Calendar Items A-V. Member Ashton moved the item; Member Uranga seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report A by Devon Deming, who gave a presentation on the Metro Fareless System Initiative. In September, the Metro Board approved Phase 1 for K-14 students. Ms. Deming stated that K-12 districts must pay \$3 for each student per year for all students in the district and includes free TAP cards and unlimited rides on participating agencies in LA County. As of today, 41 K-12 districts have expressed interest in the program, including LAUSD and Whittier Union High School District in the Gateway Cities COG area.

In regards to community colleges, Ms. Deming reported that existing agreements would be maintained such as those at LBCC and LB Transit. Ms. Deming stated that new college districts must pay \$7 for each student per year for all students in the district and includes free TAP card and unlimited rides on participating agencies in LA County. This will include Cerritos College in the Gateway Cities COG area. Participating transit agencies within the COG area include City of Commerce, Montebello Bus, and Norwalk Transit. LB Transit is interested in participating.

Ms. Deming outlined the cost to be almost \$50 million for Phase 1. She stated that Metro staff is looking for new funding for this program, in addition to ARPA funds and cost sharing from K-14 districts. She also stated that the Metro Youth Council would be launched.

Ms. Deming stated that if the Metro Board chooses to launch Phase 2 for low-income riders, the cost would be \$440 million. She recapped strategies to

streamline and simplify the application process for low-income riders and expand participation in the LIFE program for low income riders. Fare collection will resume in January 2022 (during the pandemic, fares have not been collected on buses, only on rail lines). Ms. Deming concluded by providing her contact info for COG board members who may be interested in participating in FSI.

Member Dutra asked for a list of Gateway Cities school districts that have signed up for the FSI program.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report B by Metro Director Fernando Dutra, who gave a Metro update and presented a proposed draft Metro Board motion on Zero Emission/Clean Trucks on I-710 Corridor. Member Dutra stated that it was significant that the COG was meeting on "Clean Air Day". He stated that as Chair of the Metro Board, Supervisor Solis has led the effort for Metro to provide fareless transit for Metro bus, rail, and bike share for Clean Air Day.

Member Dutra reported that the Metro Board approved the implementation for Phase 1 (K-12 and community college) for fareless transit. He stated that West Santa Ana Branch comments were due on September 28 for the draft EIR/EIS. He is reviewing each of the cities' letters to better understand concerns. On November 3, the WSAB City Manager TAC will give a recommendation to the COG Transportation Committee and the Board on the locally preferred alternative (LPA). The Metro Board is still expected to take action on the LPA in January 2022.

He concluded by presenting a proposed draft Metro motion related to clean trucks along the I-710 corridor (attached in agenda packet). He asked his colleagues for feedback on the motion. Through the work and advocacy of the COG's 710 Ad Hoc Task Force, it has become clear to him that there is an immediate need to address the public health conditions facing residents in Southeast LA and Long Beach.

Member Dutra stated that there are numerous federal and state funding opportunities related to zero emission trucks and that Metro needs to secure these funds for the COG region, match them with Metro's \$50 million, and be ready to deploy the maximum number of ZE trucks possible. Director Dutra presented a list of programs that are designed to immediately reduce emissions and to transform California's fleet. He stated that zero emission technology is growing more common and cited AQMD's JETSI project and a project by the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Member Dutra stated that there is a need to identify small business owners, operators and fleets that may be interested in incentive funding for ZE transition. Many of the fleet owners in the COG communities are small, with 1-2 trucks, and need support with this transition. This was a comment suggested by Members Santana and Alcantar. He concluded with expressing the need to explore workforce development needs, job training, and apprenticeships.

Member Chico asked for clarification on the motion – is the COG writing a motion for the Metro Board to adopt or are we writing a letter from the COG to the Metro Board? Member Dutra responded that it was a motion from him as a Metro Board Member. He feels it is important for Metro to be ready to leverage federal and state funding for clean trucks and that's the main goal of the motion. Member Chico asked if the COG had reached out to Metro Board members and staff. Member Dutra stated that his office has been working with Metro Board members Hahn and Solis. He was prepared to take the motion to the Board this month.

Chair Cassidy moved to report C by COG Homelessness Program Manager Gilbert Saldate, who presented the "Road Map Toward Ending Homelessness Plan". Mr. Saldate shared that on November 12, 2019, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the framework described in the 2019 LA County Chief Executive Office – Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI) Board Memo and allocated \$6 million in Measure H funds to be routed through Council of Governments to enable cities to support activities that align with the plan to prevent and combat homelessness. In addition, the Board of Supervisors authorized additional funds to implement the Innovation Framework. The GCCOG received \$2 million in these Innovation Funds.

On September 2, 2020, the COG Board approved the Innovation Plan and budget. On November 4, 2020, the Board approved a contract with Cicco Solutions for the creation of a subregional Homelessness Plan that will provide a common agenda for homeless solutions in the Gateway Cities subregion.

The GCCOG Homelessness Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and COG Committee on Homelessness were integral in guiding the creation of the roadmap. The plan includes a statement of Vision and Values, and establishes seven goals, including a goal to reduce the number of unsheltered homeless persons in our region by 480 over the next five years. Mr. Saldate also recapped the timeline for developing the roadmap.

In September, the Homelessness TAC and the Committee on Homelessness reviewed and approved the roadmap and recommended approval by the COG Board.

Chair Cassidy asked General Counsel Ivy Tsai if the Board needed two votes, one to approve the plan and another to receive and file the report. Ms. Tsai responded that yes, a roll call vote is required.

Member Dunton thanked the committee for their participation and commented how the roadmap is important work for the entire region on how to address homelessness. He was very impressed with the work on the plan. Member Dunton moved the item; Member Dutra seconded it. Chair Cassidy asked if the motion

could include the previous receive and file items. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the items were approved.

Chair Cassidy moved to report E by COG General Counsel Ivy Tsai, who gave an update on the Governor's Executive Order/AB 361 Regarding In-Person Meetings. Ms. Tsai stated that the Governor's executive order on suspension of certain provisions of the Brown Act and virtual meetings expired as of September 30, 2021. In the meantime, AB 361 was signed by the Governor and is currently in effect. If the COG wants to continue to hold virtual meetings, then a resolution would need to be approved (attached in agenda packet). COG staff is recommending to continue virtual meetings at this time due to the size of the board, number of attendees present at meetings, size, space, and location limitations in potential meeting sites, and prevalence of the Delta variant. Ms. Tsai recommended that the resolution be adopted for this meeting and that it be renewed every 30 days to continue to hold virtual meetings.

Member Ashton stated that SCAG's interpretation of the bill was different. SCAG will hold ten minutes for public comment, even if members of the public are not in attendance. He asked for clarification on the reasonable time for public comment. Ms. Tsai responded that she was not familiar with SCAG's practices, but noted that the bill language says if there is a set time for public comment, that the government board would have to hold this set time. This is not what the COG has done in the past.

Member Ashton moved the item; Member Lima seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy returned to Report D by COG Homelessness Program Manager Gilbert Saldate, who presented the Gateway Cities COG Work Plan for County Homelessness Measure H. Funds. Mr. Saldate stated that the County makes an annual investment of Measure H funding (\$500,000) to the COGs for Regional Homelessness Coordination. In addition, the County invested \$9 million through the 2018 Cities' Homelessness Plan Implementation Grant program, and \$6 million through the 2020 COG Innovation Fund program.

Building on the success of these three programs, the Los Angeles Chief Executive Office's Homeless Initiative is recommending that a new allocation of \$15 million in Measure H funds be allocated to the COGs to facilitate a regional approach in preventing and combatting homelessness in Los Angeles County. The term of the new funding will be for 18-months: January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The Gateway Cities' share of the funding is \$4.7 million, based on the region's share of the 2020 homeless count.

Proposed projects in the Gateway Cities COG area include:

1. Home to Employment Project (SELACO, HUB CITIES, SHARE! Housing) - \$1.2 million
2. Bell Shelter Additional Beds - \$500,000
3. Homeless Liaison - \$182,435 - Cities of Bell, Maywood, Cudahy and Commerce (led by Bell).
4. Homeless Liaison - \$150,000 - Cities of Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens and Signal Hill (to be led by Lakewood).
5. Fair Housing Consultant - \$150,000
6. Gateway Cities Affordable Housing Trust - \$2.1 million

Total cost for the proposed projects is \$4.7 million. Mr. Saldate then reviewed the timeline for the distribution of the funds. COG staff recommends approval of the proposed projects for the utilization of Measure H sub regional funds over 18 months and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with the Los Angeles Chief Executive Office's Homeless Initiative to implement the projects.

Member Uranga moved the item; Member Saleh seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

There were no Matters from Board of Directors.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director