

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments 16401 Paramount Blvd.  
Paramount, California  
September 1, 2021  
Zoom Conference

GCCOG Chair Cinde Cassidy called the meeting to order at 6:05 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.	David Torres (Alt.)	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>24</b>	<b>8</b>

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Marisa Perez, Karen Heit, Gilbert Saldade, Mahogany Smith-Christopher, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Danielle Soto,

AQMD; Gregory Farr, Caltrans; Raphael Sonenshein, Cal State LA; Peter Hidalgo, Charter; Tyler Bonnanno-Curley, City of Long Beach; Adriana Figueroa, City of Paramount; Kekoa Anderson, Yvette Kirrin – COG Engineer; Steven Lee, Metro; Charlene Palmer, NCE; Kim Tachiki-Chin, Office of Lucille Roybal-Allard; Christina Skacan, POLB; Sarah Patterson, SCAG;

Chair Cassidy asked if there were any amendments; there were none. She announced that Vice Chair Ali Saleh will be taking over the meeting at 6:45 pm.

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Under Matters from President, Chair Cassidy read the mission of the Gateway Cities COG to begin the meeting. She then introduced a video presentation for Immediate Past President Maria Davila. Member Davila thanked her colleagues and expressed her gratitude to serve the COG. She then moved on to Appointment to COG Transportation Committee. Chair Cassidy recommended that Member Davila continue to serve on the COG Transportation Committee. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer recapped meetings with Sacramento legislators, including Senator Bob Archuleta and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia. She noted the COG is scheduled to meet with Speaker Anthony Rendon and Senator Lena Gonzales. The COG provided an update on transportation project priorities and reiterated the need for city revenue incentives needed to spur the production of additional housing. Lawmakers were also thanked for their role in securing a budget earmark to allow the development of a Gateway Cities broadband plan.

Ms. Pfeffer reported that she will be on vacation starting Friday morning, returning to the office on September 20<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Genny Cisneros is the point of contact during her absence.

Lastly, Ms. Pfeffer reported on the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee has met twice since the last COG Board meeting. The Committee meetings are visible to the public through the virtual meeting platform.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, the Committee heard three informational presentations on the: 1) project development process, 2) background on the potential “Early Action” projects that had been under discussion for the I-710 Corridor, and 3) Metro’s plan to convene an I-710 South Corridor Task Force with a broad representation of stakeholders. The COG’s I-710 Ad Hoc Committee can be considered a de facto subcommittee of this Task Force, and it is anticipated that the two groups will have some joint meetings.

The Committee concluded its discussion by directing COG staff to invite representatives from five Community-Based Organizations to present to the Committee at its third meeting:

The third meeting of the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee was held on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Members of CEHAJ made a presentation to the Ad Hoc Committee. They discussed their concerns regarding health impacts in the corridor and the need for a better community engagement process with more transparency and accessibility for meaningful participation. They expressed their priorities of no displacement; a zero-emissions corridor; local hire; active & public transit; public health benefits; and undoing systemic harms.

The Committee requested that staff provide contact information for the Coalition members so that they can reach out and build relationships with these community-based organizations.

Finally, the Committee nominated three members to represent the Ad Hoc Committee on the Metro I-710 South Corridor Task Force:

Ali Saleh from the City of Bell, Oralia Rebollo from the City of Commerce, and Elizabeth Alcantar from the City of Cudahy. The Task Force will also include a representative from the City of Long Beach.

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Cassidy stated that the October COG Board meeting will be virtual. She asked to approve the Consent Calendar Items A-T. 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 Reports and stated that each presentation should be ten minutes long. She moved to Report A, "We're Not Giving Up: A Plan for Homelessness Governance in Los Angeles" by Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, Executive Director, Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, Cal State Los Angeles. Dr. Sonenshein started with a recap of the current governance structure related to homelessness, which includes the City of Los Angeles, LA Homeless Service Agency, and the County of Los Angeles. Through interviews and research, he reviewed the questions, assumptions and problems with the current system. He identified the problem is that there is a hole in the center of the system. There is no central place where the problem of homelessness is addressed. As a result, he proposed "The Center", a freestanding organization that has its own governing board, oversight board, and CEO as it relates to homelessness.

Member Dutra asked Dr. Sonenshein for a copy of his presentation.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report B, City of Paramount Climate Action Plan by Adriana Figueroa, Public Works Director, City of Paramount. Ms. Figueroa gave an overview of the City of Paramount and reviewed the city's sustainability and environmental progress to date. She then reviewed the city's history related to development of their Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2021, and discussed the Plan's

three main objectives - reducing greenhouse gases, enhancing community resilience, and providing co-benefits. She recapped the CAP's next steps as meeting the emission reduction targets by 2030, adding an environmental sustainability section on council agenda items, and adding a CIP section dedicated to sustainability as part of the city budget. She concluded the presentation by emphasizing the Council's direction and City Manager priority; finding the right staff member; working with existing partnerships; and coordinating among city departments, especially Planning. These were keys to the city's success.

Member Dutra asked if any city fees had to be raised to accomplish these sustainability efforts. Ms. Figueroa responded that no, no fees were raised to support this effort. She stated that Paramount has some of the lowest fees of all cities. She emphasized that partnerships and creativity have been key to the City's success. Member Dutra asked about the Tree City designation and any conflict with public works/sidewalks budget? Ms. Figueroa acknowledged that there have been some challenges and responded that planting the right tree in the right location is really key. The City rarely removes trees, unless they die or have issues.

Member Cuellar-Stallings thanked Ms. Figueroa for her work in the City.

Ms. Pfeffer added that only three jurisdictions in the Gateway Cities – Long Beach, Bellflower, and the County of Los Angeles - have adopted a Climate Action Plan. She offered the COG's climate action planning framework as resources to any city.

Member Ashton asked about planning for Climate Action Plan – what issues did the city face that others might run into? Ms. Figueroa responded that there were challenges having a small city staff – staff wears multiple hats in Paramount and have multiple responsibilities. The most challenging item was the time commitment needed to review needed documents; the City was only able to complete this with help from the COG consultant and the Institute for Local Government.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report C, Report from Transportation Committee by Metro Director Fernando Dutra. Member Dutra stated that Metro staff will report back to the Metro Board in September with a funding plan for Phase 1 (K-12 and community college) and Phase 2 (low-income) of the Fareless System Initiative (FSI). He recapped transit operators/cities and school districts who have already agreed to participate in FSI. He stated that at last month's Transportation Committee meeting, Member Karen Lee from the City of Artesia asked about the source of funding to pay for the FSI pilot, the formula used to calculate each transit operators' share, and how this was being communicated to operators. Metro is recommending that they use their ARPA funds to cover their fare loss

during the pilot. Metro has been meeting with transit operators on a weekly basis.

Member Dutra expressed his concerns about the long term funding source for fareless service – the pilot would cost \$50 million in lost farebox revenue from Metro and the municipal operators. He stated that it was a great project, but that it needs to be sustainable long term.

Member Dutra emphasized the importance of cities getting involved in the West Santa Ana Branch light rail project. Metro released the draft EIR/EIS for the West Santa Ana Branch. They have held several briefings for cities and elected officials, as well as virtual public hearings. He asked for input from the COG and its cities. Metro staff studied four alternatives and has recommended Alternative 3 from Slauson/A Line to Pioneer Station in Artesia (14.8 miles). He stated that this is not what the COG and cities want – both have expressed support for the complete line from Artesia to downtown LA.

Metro is developing a funding plan for the staff recommended alternative, Alternative 3. He will report back to the COG with those details when they are available. Director Dutra shared that several weeks ago he joined Supervisors Solis, Hahn, and Mitchell in a request to Speaker Rendon for a \$500 million state earmark for the project. He acknowledged the city managers and the Eco-Rapid Transit board and staff for their work. He concluded by stating that public comments on the EIR/EIS are due on September 28 and that Metro Board will select a locally preferred alternative (LPA) in December.

Member Ashton asked for Member Dutra's impression on the Metro's board support for WSAB from Artesia to downtown LA. Member Dutra responded that local chambers of commerce and school boards should get involved in advocacy related to WSAB. Member Ashton asked whom Eco-Rapid should reach out on the Metro Board. Member Dutra suggested meeting with all the Metro Board members, including the City of Los Angeles.

Member Alcantar thanked Member Dutra for his report. She stated that there are several projects in our region that are lacking and emphasized the need for Gateway Cities transit riders. She hopes that Member Dutra connects with the Southeast Los Angeles cities that actually use Metro and voted in support of Measure M. Member Alcantar concluded with requesting to meet with Member Dutra and his team.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report D, Gateway Cities COG Complete Streets Program by Kekoa Anderson and Yvette Kirrin, COG Engineers. Ms. Kirrin began the presentation by reviewing the 2013-2016 Strategic Transportation Plan (STP), which included consideration of complete streets and active transportation corridors. The STP identified 25 deficient corridors and categorized them in high, medium and low priority. The STP TAC approved the priority listing, and COG

staff began the “Complete Street Initiative”. She noted that completed/on-going master plans are: 1. Artesia Corridor 2. Lakewood/Rosemead Corridor 3. Atlantic Corridor 4. Florence Corridor 5. Imperial Corridor and pending master plans are: 1. Telegraph Corridor 2. Alondra Corridor 3. Slauson Corridor and 4. Long Beach Blvd Corridor.

Ms. Kirrin reviewed the coordination with other programs such as urban greening programs, Lower LA River Revitalization, freeway plans and local jurisdictional plans. She recapped the common corridor wide factors that are inventoried and/or evaluated for possible improvements such as water quality/storm water/green streets, bike lanes, and transit gaps. She reviewed the project development process for projects and the activities that were completed to support this process.

Mr. Anderson then walked through steps of the project development process for the corridors and reviewed some examples in the Gateway Cities. Step One is a toolbox utilization. Step Two is focused area development, which includes inventory of existing conditions and concept planning of the available footprint. Step Three are community based toolbox elements, with icons such as bikeways, bike lanes, bus stop improvements, and others. Step Four is community outreach and engagement input. Step Five is developing a conceptual footprint, based on the input received. Step Six is completing renderings of proposed improvements, which are used for outreach and planning. Ms. Kirrin then recapped the process and benefits and outcomes for plans. One example of a complete street plan is the City of Long Beach, Artesia Corridor Great Street Project. The City was able to secure funding to continue design work along Artesia Blvd. Ms. Kirrin then reviewed a menu of funding sources that may be available for this work in other cities.

Member Sharif asked about the funded design – what does that really mean. Ms. Kirrin responded that several parts of Artesia are funded through the 91/605/405 TAC. City of Compton has submitted a request for funding. Artesia Blvd. has been able to secure money both within Compton and Long Beach.

Under Matters from the Board, Member Weissman asked about the Governor’s executive order related to virtual meetings expiring September 30. She asked if the COG Board would be requiring vaccinations for in person meeting attendance. General Counsel Tsai responded that staff will continue to monitor this situation and report back to the Board.

Member Ashton stated that proof of vaccination or negative test was required for for a conference he attended last week; it wasn’t much of an issue for attendance at the conference.

Member Chavez introduced himself as a newly elected Bell Gardens City Councilmember in November 2020.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 1, 2021

---

Adjournment: Vice Chair Saleh adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director