

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
June 2, 2021**

Zoom Conference

GCCOG President Maria Davila called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Tony Lima	Artesia	X	
2.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy (E)	Avalon (1 st Vice President)	X	
3.	Ali Saleh (E)	Bell (2 nd 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.	Roberto Uranga (E)	Long Beach	X	
17.	Rex Richardson	Long Beach		X
18.	Marisela Santana	Lynwood	X	
19.	Heber Marquez	Maywood		X
20.	David Torres (Alt. for Kimberly Ann Cobos-Cawthorn)	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 (President)	X	
27.	William Davis	Vernon	X	
28.	Fernando Dutra (E)	Whittier (Immediate Past President)	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.	Bonnie Lowenthal (Alt. for Sharon Weissman)	Port of Long Beach	X	
(E) Executive Committee			Total =	
			23	9

ALSO, PRESENT: Genny Cisneros, Gilbert Saldate, Karen Heit, Stephanie Cadena, Melani Smith, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Erica Copeland, Mahogany Smith-Christopher – CivicSpark Fellow; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Danielle Soto, AQMD; Kristine Guerrero, CalCities; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Michael Parmer, City of Avalon; Jorgel Chaves, City of Bell Gardens; Tyler Bonnano-Curley, City of Long Beach; Andres Molina, Flatiron Construction; Maria Rosales-Ramirez; Steven Lee, Mark Dierking – Metro; Kim Tachiki-Chin, Office of Representative Roybal-Allard; Guadalupe Camberos, Office of Supervisor Solis; Nina Turner, Christina Skacan – POLA; Sara Patterson, SCAG; Selene Sandoval, Kerissa Kelly-Slatten, Dr. Wilma Franco – SELA; Joe Linton, Streetsblog; Sumi Grant, Sumire Gant Consulting; Christina Baghdasarian, WSP.

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Administrative Assistant Joel Arevalos. There were no amendments to the agenda. There were no public comments.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer provided an update on the COG's \$225,000 state budget request via the Office of Assembly Member Christina Garcia to develop a Broadband Plan for the Gateway Cities region. If granted, the COG will use the funding to have a plan in place that will position the COG to access implementation funding. Assembly Speaker Rendon and Senator Archuleta also signed on to the budget request.

Director Pfeffer gave of a reminder of the upcoming June 30th Board meeting for adoption of next year's budget and for conducting Officer elections.

President Davila asked to approve the Consent Calendar. Member Marilyn Sanabria moved to approve and it was seconded by Member Margarita Rios. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

President Davila moved on to Report A, Rail to River Project Presentation. Anthony Jusay from LA Metro provided a project update on the Rail to River Active Transportation Corridor, Segment B. This is a 4-mile corridor from the Metro A Line (Blue) Slauson Station to the LA River. The project concept was envisioned almost a decade ago to make use of underutilized rail corridors, and identified two project segments.

Jusay reviewed the history of the original locally preferred alternative, Metro actions to date, and supplemental studies in progress to look at alternative options to the one originally proposed. Jusay noted that the West Santa Ana Branch Technical Advisory Committee (WSAB TAC) has been in coordination with involved agencies, including Los Angeles County, City of Los Angeles, cities of Bell, Maywood, Vernon, Cudahy, and others, to understand local agency needs. Jusay reviewed the potential alternatives identified thus far and described the benefits of each, including bikeway opportunities and connections to destinations.

The project goal is to provide a safe, comfortable and continuous active transportation route between the Slauson Station and the LA River path, enhancing mobility and regional connectivity for local communities. Jusay reviewed the project goals of safety, access, mobility, equity and viability. Next steps for the project will be to conduct community engagement and follow-up with local agencies to review the alternatives and provide feedback.

President Davila moved on to Report B, Transportation Committee Report. Metro Board Director Fernando Dutra shared updates from the recent MTA Board meeting. He provided a summary of

the MTA Board's discussion of the Fareless System Initiative (FSI), and how local cities and transit operators will be compensated for the program. He also provided an update on the I-710 South Corridor Project. Following discussion, the MTA board agreed to allow the GCCOG to engage in further discussion with Caltrans and Metro, with attention to impacts to communities, community needs, and goals for modernization.

In regard to I-710, Martin Reyes, Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Solis added that the MTA's decision via a motion by Supervisor Solis' stopped work on the current EIR/EIS for the I-710 South, and separated the Early Action Program from the current EIR so that it could move forward as its own independent project.

Member Oralía Rebollo asked Director Dutra for the reason behind his position on the motion as originally proposed. Board Director Dutra reviewed his position that it needed to be brought back to the GCCOG and communities to gain additional clarity from Caltrans and Metro, ensure ample opportunity for input, and better satisfy the intent for meaningful community involvement. Member Elizabeth Alcantar asked for clarity on the impact from Director Dutra's position on the motion. Director Dutra clarified that it led to a decision for Metro to reconvene with the COG and Caltrans to review and discuss the vision of the I-710 and other corridors.

President Davila turned to Item C, GCCOG Housing Update. Melani Smith, Director of Regional Development presented updates on elements of the housing program to assist cities with the production of housing to meet local, regional and state goals. The COG is beginning the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Work Program scope, which was approved by the Board in 2020. The work will help member cities complete their Housing Elements by the state's deadline through development of various tools and resources for cities.

Smith summarized the funding for staffing of these activities, including REAP, Local Early Action Planning (LEAP), and Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) programs. Smith announced that the COG will once again have the opportunity to host a CivicSpark Housing Fellow in the 2021-22 year, at no cost to the COG, to continue supporting the regional housing program.

Smith summarized additional activities currently in progress, including continued collaboration with the state for a custom technical assistance program for cities, relationship-building with housing-related organizations, development of a Planning Newsletter for cities' staff, development of a Housing & Homeless Action Tracking Tool, and quarterly Affordable Housing workshops for cities and stakeholders.

President Davila turned to Item D, Executive Committee Election Procedures. COG counsel Ivy Tsai reviewed the election procedures and asked for direction from the Board on conducting officer elections for the next fiscal year. She noted that in 2020, due to moving to virtual meetings, the Board agreed to carry over the membership of the Executive Committee selected in the prior year. Tsai noted an error in the staff report showing the number of cities as members of the Executive Committee and noted that a revision will need to be made to clarify the membership of the cities of Lakewood and Whittier, due to the previous Immediate Past President's retirement in 2020.

Member Sean Ashton asked how often the Executive Committee met over the past year. Director Pfeffer confirmed there has been one Executive Committee meeting in the last year.

Member Ray Dunton recommended the Board carry over the membership of the Executive Committee, and asked staff to review and confirm Lakewood's and Whittier's membership.

Member Ed Wilson, asked to clarify if Executive Committee members are elected as individuals or by city. Director Pfeffer confirmed that cities are elected. Member Wilson suggested utilizing a tool to enable virtual voting by the Board. Tsai responded that some agencies have adopted policies stating that electronic voting serves as a roll call vote to meet Brown Act requirements. COG staff could look into such options for the Board. Member Wilson and Member Ali Saleh noted that SCAG has utilized electronic voting in the past for in-person meetings.

Member Ashton suggested the Board direct staff to postpone officer elections until the Board can meet and vote in person.

Tsai asked SCAG Representative Sarah Patterson about SCAG's voting procedures. Patterson confirmed a verbal roll call vote is used for virtual action items, except for receive and file items.

Member Rebollo moved to direct staff to plan to roll over the current membership of the Executive Committee to the next year, and it was seconded by Member Ashton. COG Staff Mora took roll call and the item was approved.

The Board received and filed all reports. President Davila said voting for Officer Elections will occur at the next meeting on June 30th.

There were no Matters from the Board of Directors. There were no Matters from the President. The Board moved to a virtual Closed Session at 7:15 p.m. for performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Direction was given to staff. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment: President Davila adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director