

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Gateway Cities Council of Governments 16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
August 4, 2021
Zoom Conference

GCCOG President Cinde Cassidy 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 (President)	X	
3.	Ali Saleh (E)	Bell (1 st 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 nd 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	Total =	
			23	9

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Marisa Perez, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Kim Tachiki-Chin, Office of Lucille Roybal-Allard; Sean Kearns, Office of

Nanette Barragan, 44th District U.S. Representative; Danielle Soto, Lisa Tanaka – AQMD; Gregory Farr, Caltrans; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Tyler Bonanno-Curley, City of Long Beach; Gisselle Delgado, City of Maywood; Ali Sajjad Taj, City of Artesia; Michael Kodama, Eco-Rapid; Guadalupe Camberos, Los Angeles County; Lynda Bybee, LSA; Mark Dierking, Steven Lee – Metro; Nancy Michali, Michali Consulting; Cristina Skacan, Nina Turner – Port of Long Beach; Sarah Patterson, SCAG.

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Administrative Assistant Joel Arevalos.

There was one amendment to the agenda. Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan is set to arrive at 6:10-6:15 pm and Chair Cassidy will take her when she arrives. Congresswoman Barragan arrived and Chair Cassidy moved to Reports and introduced the Congresswoman to present Report A, Medium and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Act, HR 4440. Congresswoman Barragan introduced this bill three weeks ago due to unhealthy air related to truck traffic emissions in Los Angeles, especially in communities of color. Her bill will establish a rebate program through EPA to promote the purchase and installation of EV supply equipment for zero emission truck fleets. Eligible entities would include: individuals, tax districts, ports, airports, electric co-ops, private companies, and state, local and tribal governments who have fleets. Trucks could operate on a single battery change during the day and recharge over the night at one location. Community benefit bonuses were included for 1) trucks in a county designated as a non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act and 2) trucks in rural areas. Rebates would cover 80% of capital costs for public sector recipients and non-profits and 50% for private sector entities. The bill would authorize \$250 million/year in funding through FY 2025 for a total of \$1 billion investment.

The bill has been introduced and has secured 11 cosponsors. A companion bill in the Senate has been introduced by Senators Alex Padilla and Jeff Merkley. This bill may be considered as an amendment to the bipartisan infrastructure bill or during Reconciliation in the Senate or after recess. She concluded by asking the COG for a letter of support. Chair Cassidy requested a sample letter of support from the Congresswoman.

Member Weissman thanked the Congresswoman for her advocacy for zero emission vehicles and her inclusion of the ports. Member Ashton expressed gratitude and thanked her for including private companies in the legislation.

Member Rebollo asked if buses would qualify. Congresswoman stated that this was for charging infrastructure so buses would be included.

Congresswoman Barragan concluded by mentioning President Biden's Justice 40 Initiative and asked for everyone to take a look at the guidelines and how it could impact our communities.

Member Santana thanked the Congresswoman for sponsoring the bill and mentioned how this could lower costs for truck drivers that wish to convert to CNG

and zero emission trucks. This item could be discussed as part of the COG's 710 Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Pfeffer stated that a support letter for the bill was under the Consent Calendar on tonight's agenda.

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Under Matters from President, Chair Cassidy stated that one of her goals is to bring the board together more closely. She reminded the board of the COG's mission statement – to improve the quality of life for the two million residents of Southeast Los Angeles County. Targeted initiatives include transportation planning, affordable housing, improving air quality, economic development and other community-enhancing activities.

Chair Cassidy discussed the return of in-person meetings. Her original plan was to return in person in December for a light social and business meeting. The board would return fully in January 2022. If the Governor's directive to return to in person meetings expires as planned by September 30, 2021, the Board would have to return in person for the October meeting. She concluded that she will run the meeting tightly to conclude on-time. Member Ashton stated that he would be hesitant to have in-person meetings at this time, prefers to be as cautious as possible.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer stated that the COG has received a \$225,000 state earmark to develop a broadband plan. She acknowledged the City of Downey who assisted with this, and stated that the plan would model what the South Bay COG is doing. She also stated that it looks like the LA DEAL will be the consortium approved for the digital divide work; the COG had submitted a letter of support. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the COG offered a short-term appointment to Mahogany Smith-Christopher to continue her work for five months.

Ms. Pfeffer concluded with an update on the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee. She stated that there was no set meeting schedule, but in general the committee would meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 5-7 pm. Cudahy Vice Mayor Elizabeth Alcantar was selected as Chair. Lynwood Vice Mayor Marisela Santana was selected as Vice Chair. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the committee received a joint statement of commitment and support from Metro Directors Hilda Solis, Janice Hahn, Holly Mitchell, and Fernando Dutra.

After much discussion on public engagement facilitated by Chair Alcantar, the committee agreed to the following four points –

- Make the Ad Hoc Committee meetings visible to the public through the virtual meeting platform so that the public can observe the workings of the Committee.

- Notification of any interested members of the public will occur through the individual Ad Hoc Committee members.
- Ms. Pfeffer will provide regular, monthly status reports on the Ad Hoc Committee's activities to the COG Board. It will be a standing agenda item at the monthly COG Board Meetings. The public will be able to make their public comments at the COG Board Meetings, which is a Brown Act public body.
- Certain Ad Hoc Committee meetings will include the opportunity for public comment. Each of these meetings will be determined on a case by case basis at the prior meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee.

It was recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee set aside a meeting(s) to invite presentations from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) on key topics. These could be groups such as Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice (CEHAJ) and East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ). The Committee agreed that they would like to accomplish both guiding principles and recommended early action programs/projects for the I-710 Corridor. The Committee also identified other technical experts they would like to hear from.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021. Potential agenda items include 710 early action program elements and further options for engaging community organizations.

Chair Cassidy asked to approve the Consent Calendar Items A-AA. There was an amendment to Item B, a correction to the Board of Directors Meeting minutes on June 30, 2021. Member Sharif stated that she was not in attendance for June 30, so she would like the minutes to reflect this.

Member Rebollo moved to approve the consent calendar and it was seconded by Member Davila. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved. Member Cid stated that she would also like to abstain from Item B as she was absent for the meeting.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report B, an introduction of New Eco Rapid Joint Powers Authority Board Chair, Ali Sajjad Taj, from the City of Artesia. Councilmember Taj stated that his goal is to bring the Eco Rapid Transit from Artesia to LA Union Station, with an emphasis on jobs, housing, and development. He acknowledged the work of Vice Chair Sean Ashton and Metro Board Director Fernando Dutra. He wants to work with the COG, cities, Metro, community organizations, churches, schools, and youth sports, and local unions to make sure the Eco Rapid line gets to LA Union Station.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report C, a review of the Environmental Document for West Santa Ana Branch Project and Project Update by Nancy Michali, City Managers TAC Consultant. Ms. Michali reviewed the public comment period, which will likely be extended until September 28, and the Metro Board decision making process of November 17 at Planning Committee and December 2 Board

of Directors meeting. The draft environmental document is an integrated federal and state environmental clearance with four project alternatives –

- Alternative 1 & 2: Downtown Los Angeles to Pioneer
- Alternative 3: Slauson/A Line (Blue) to Pioneer
- Alternative 4: 1-105/C Line to Pioneer

Ms. Michali recapped various ways the public can review the draft, attend public hearings, and submit comments. She also presented the outreach to residents, cities and elected officials, including 3 virtual public hearings. She defined the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), staff preferred alternative, and the process that will be used to select the LPA by the Metro Board. She then recapped the staff preferred alternative of Alternative 3 (Slauson/A Line to Pioneer). She suggested a possible response of cities and stakeholders could be “support for the selection of Alternative 3 as the initial segment of a WSAB Project LPA with a commitment from Metro for completion of the project north to Downtown Los Angeles and Union Station (Alternative 1) in a timely manner.” She also presented the costs for each alternative and reviewed project funding, including local Measure M funding of \$4 billion, 3% local contribution by cities, federal New Starts Grants Program, and possibly state funding. She requested that cities submit public comments on the project and request presentations. Technical support is available through the City Manager TAC and Eco-Rapid Transit.

Member Ashton stated that the COG Board should write a letter of support for Alternative 1 to fix some of the past Metro decisions on transit projects. Member Dutra asked to clarify the costs of Alternative 3 vs the costs of taking it to Los Angeles (\$9 billion). Ms. Michali also stated that the Los Angeles portion of the WSAB is underground and if this was changed to aerial this would reduce the cost by \$2 billion.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report D, an update from Metro Director Fernando Dutra. Member Dutra stated that Metro has released the draft environmental document for the West Santa Ana Branch, a new light rail transit line that will connect southeast LA County to downtown Los Angeles. The formal public comment period for the draft runs through Monday, September 13, 2021 and the public can submit comments at a virtual public hearing, via email or project website. He will be looking to partner with cities to build support as Metro selects the alternative and develops a funding plan. The Metro Board approved \$1.5 billion of Federal Transit Administration COVID-19 related funds for all LA County transit operators for operating expenses. This included funds for Commerce Municipal Bus Lines, La Mirada Transit, Long Beach Transit, Montebello Bus Lines, Norwalk Transit, Metrolink, Access Services, and city dial-a-ride programs. The Metro Board received an update on funding and implementation of a 18-month fareless pilot program for Phase 1 (K-12 and community college students) and Phase 2 (low-income riders). During this pilot period, fares would not be collected from these groups. Metro plans to bring the final funding and implementation plan to the board in September. Cities, transit agencies, K-12 school districts, and community

college districts should have received info from Metro already. School districts will be asked to share in the implementation costs – including \$3 per student per year for K-12 students and \$7 per student per year for community college students. Metro staff had estimated that it would cost \$50 million in lost farebox revenue for Metro and transit operators for K-14 students. Metro has been in discussions with cities and transit operators to help pay for the pilot using with one-time ARPA funds. Member Dutra asked for cities to share concerns with him.

Member Weissman asked how the fee per student was developed – is it based on the number of students who ride or is it the total student population. Member Dutra responded that he would get an answer to her question. Member Weissman also asked why the pilot did not include university students too. Member Dutra responded that many community college students are low-income and this pilot could support their education.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report E, an appointment to the California JPIA Board. Member Santana moved to nominate Member Pe as the JPIA board member and Member Ashton as the alternate. Member Cuellar Stallings seconded the motion. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy moved to Report F, Amendment Number One to Executive Director Employment Agreement.

Chair Cassidy discussed the performance review and contract modification for Ms. Pfeffer. She stated that the two amendments included a 1.5 year extension and the inclusion of health care insurance (as all COG employees now receive health care). Member Ashton moved approval. Member Sharif seconded motion. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy stated that the first four reports (Reports A-D) were received and filed.

There were no items under Matters from the Board.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director