

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
4:00 P.M. Meeting**

Gateway Cities Council of Governments
MEETING REMOTE LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Chair - MTA Director, Long Beach Mayor - Robert Garcia

Meeting called to order at 4:08 by Mayor Maria Davila, City of South Gate, President Gateway Cities Council of Governments. Roll call was taken by COG staff.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Maria Davila	COG Board President	X	
2.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy	COG 1 st Vice President	X	
3.	Ali Saleh	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President		X
4.	Fernando Dutra	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
5.	Emma Sharif	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President		X
6.	Robert Garcia, Chair	MTA Board of Directors Rep.		X
7.	Luke Klipp	Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
8.	Martin Reyes	Office of Sup. Solis	X	
9.	Sarah Bauman	Long Beach Transit	X	
10.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
11.	Thaddeus McCormack	CM Steering Committee, Chair	X	
12.	Karen Lee	City Manager, City of Artesia		X
13.	Kevin Jackson	City of Long Beach		X
14.	Bill Pagett	Public Works Officer	X	
15.	Ed Norris	Public Works Officer	X	
Total =			10	5

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Stephanie Cadena – COG Staff; Mahogany Smith – CivicSpark Fellow; Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates; Lorry Hempe – City of Lynwood; Shannon Delong – City of Whittier; Tham Nguyen, Mark Dierking, Steven Lee – Metro; Andres Molina – WSP; Nina Turner, Theresa Dau-Ngo – Port of Long Beach; Beth Chow – City of Norwalk; Jamie Hwang - Supervisor Hahn’s Office.

There was no public comment or matters from staff.

The Consent Calendar was approved.

Justin Ramirez, Metro Board Deputy to Mayor Robert Garcia, announced that Metro CEO, Phil Washington, would step down from his position effective May. Mr. Washington did not indicate what was he has planned next. Mr. Ramirez went on to present the highlights from the Board meeting including the allotment of \$24 million for the replacement of transit service cut back from the COVID service reductions.

Tham Nguyen, Project Director from the Metro Office of Extraordinary Innovation gave a report on the Traffic Reduction program. Ms. Nguyen began by discussing the reduction in traffic caused by COVID shutdowns but indicated that traffic would return if and when things go back to normal. She indicated that Traffic Reduction was an experiment that the MTA is considering as a congestion management tool to reduce traffic. She outlined the feasibility study questions determining where the program might work, how it could be implemented and how it could improve health, air quality and provide equity. Traffic congestion impacts everyone, driver and non-driver alike, particularly lower-income communities which are more likely to be located near major thoroughfares or freeways and feel the impacts of congestion. She mentioned upcoming public meetings that will discuss the issue. She invited the Committee to ask questions and participate in these meetings.

The feasibility study is a two-year process ending in a live demonstration in 2022. Fernando Dutra asked how would this impact disadvantaged communities, people who must drive to work sites. Ms. Nguyen indicated that part of the study is to look at impacts to service workers and other auto dependent jobs. She stated that these workers are being negatively impacted by congestion now and that offsetting this would be a goal. Sharon Weissman mentioned that subsidies may help with this issue as well as the time savings. She felt that disadvantaged communities could be helped with this program.

Nancy Pfeffer, COG Executive Director, commented on previous work done on the Expresslane program where low-income users were subsidized in the use of the lanes. She indicated that 8,000 households had taken advantage of this program. Pfeffer asked about the Metro internal equity tool that MTA has developed for such projects. Ms. Nguyen stated that the equity tool is being tried out on this project. She described the planned use of a "utility model" where meters are used to assess use and assistance needed.

Mayor Davila called on Lisa Rapp, Public Works Director - City of Lakewood, who represents the GCCOG at the MTA TAC meeting. She indicated that the meeting was held today and that a memo would be sent out. Ms. Rapp went on to discuss the MTA customer service satisfaction survey. She reviewed the areas that were to be addressed. She reviewed some of the strategies including unarmed security ambassadors to deal with the homeless issues on transit. There is a plan to secure elevator attendants to cut down on elevator incidents. All of these items are subject to funding being available. Rapp indicate that she also made notes on the Traffic Reduction program and Access paratransit improvements – letting the user know where the van is and announcing arrival. The TAC was presented with the state and federal legislative slate.

Mr. Dutra asked if the NextGen micro-service impacts Uber and Lyft or is competing said there could be an inquiry. GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer asked if a customer was stranded, would the rider be offered a rideshare or taxi service ride. Executive Director Pfeffer indicated that there will be a presentation on Metro micro-service and these questions would be answered then. Mr. Dutra asked about the Metro bike program and how well it is managed as there are electric scooters left everywhere. Rapp said that Metro intends to provide space at stations for electric bikes and scooters. There is a bill allowing cities to regulate the placement of scooters in cities. Luke Klipp, Supervisor Hahn's office, stated that MTA does not regulate scooters except for providing parking at some rail stations. A Motion was made to receive and file the reports. Luke Klipp, most recently from Mayor Garcia's office introduced himself as Supervisor Hahn's new Transportation Deputy. He also introduced Jamie Hwang, formerly from LA Councilman Herb Wesson's office. Ms. Pfeffer announced that there are virtual rooms open in the chat box for the Board of Directors to use for informal conversations before the Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn made at 5:25 pm.