

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
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 4:32 PM.

#	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.	Vacant	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
5.	Emma Sharif	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President		X
6.	Fernando Dutra, Chair	MTA Board of Directors Rep		
7.	Luke Klipp	Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
8.	Martin Reyes	Office of Sup. Solis	X	
9.	Tracy Beidleman	Long Beach Transit	X	
10.	Bonnie Lowenthal for Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
11.	Thaddeus McCormack	CM Steering Committee, Chair	X	
12.	Karen Lee for William Rawlings	City Manager, City of Artesia	X	
13.	Kevin Jackson	City of Long Beach		
14.	Bill Pagett	Public Works Officer	X	
15.	Ed Norris	Public Works Officer		X
Total =			11	2

OTHERS PRESENT: Genny Cisneros, Joel Arevalos, Stephanie Cadena, Sandra Mora, GCCOG Staff: Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates; Audra McDonald, City of Avalon; Andres Molina, FlatIron Corp; Alexander Sarno, La County; Sara Baumann, Long Beach Transit; Tony Jusay, Jacqueline Su, Michael Turner, Mark Dierking, Raffi Hamparian, Steven Lee, Metro; Nina Turner, Theresa Dau-Ngo, Christina Skacan, Port

of Long Beach; Carrie Davis, Psomas Corp; Michael Schneider, Streets for All; Joe Linton, Streetsblog; Luke Klipp, Supervisor Hahn; Wally Shidler

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Administrative Assistant Sandra Mora. There were no amendments to the agenda. There were no public comments. There were no Matters from Staff.

President Davila asked to approve the Consent Calendar. First Vice-President Cinde Cassidy moved to approve and it was seconded by Member Bonnie Lowenthal. COG staff Arealos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

President Davila started with Report B, Rails to River Project Presentation by Anthony Jusay from LA Metro. Jusay provided a project update on the Rails to River Active Transportation Corridor, Segment B, 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 project and the locally preferred alternative that was originally approved. Since then, Metro has had to begin a supplemental study to identify alternative options to the original, as the original was found to be unsuitable with the future alignment of the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) project. Jusay noted that the WSAB City Manager Technical Advisory Committee has been coordinating 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 four 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.

Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer thanked Jusay for presentation and noted it will also be shared at the full Board meeting. Member Ali Saleh asked to have the presentation emailed to the Board.

President Davila moved on to Report C. Update on Federal legislative activities by Raffi Haig Hamparian at LA Metro. Hamparian introduced his colleague Michael Turner. Turner announced that the Legislature has moved two of MTA's sponsored bills forward. These are AB 811, regarding Metro's procurement policies, and AB 917, which would allow all transit agencies in the state to put cameras on their buses to enforce parking restrictions in bus-only lanes and in transit stations. If passed, transit agencies would be able to capture parking violations while cities maintain enforcement responsibilities.

Turner shared that the Legislature continues to discuss the Governor's budget proposal in the May revise as there are significant opportunities due to the state's \$75 billion surplus, of which a large portion is being proposed for transportation priorities. MTA is looking at several proposals such as one to invest over \$3 billion in zero emission (ZE) technology for heavy-duty vehicles, transit buses, school buses, and potentially clean truck programs. Turner also summarized additional proposals, to allocate funding to projects that would connect to the 2028 Olympics, to increase funding to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), and to allocate funding for active transportation, highway beautification and other priorities. Turner noted that the Legislature will likely adopt a general, programmatic budget with overall figures in June, followed by specific trailer bills and program implementation details adopted later in the Legislative session.

President Davila asked how cities can seek additional information on funding allocations. Turner said the expectation is that funding for local streets and roads will be allocated through the regular formulas that cities are already accustomed to. For newer programs, MTA expects there will be a two-part process, beginning with trailer bills followed by specific details added from the various administering agencies. Turner said local and regional collaboration will be important to be able to target grants available through the various state agencies in order to implement the region's priorities, such as the Clean Truck Program. Director Pfeffer added that staff is continuing efforts to request and access dedicated funding for the I-710 corridor. She also noted that the COG and Eco-Rapid JPA previously submitted a letter to state representatives requesting increased funding for the TIRCP.

Director Dutra asked for clarification on the funding mechanisms for "28 by '28" projects. Turner said that there is a billion dollars allocated to projects connected to Olympic events, which may come through the TIRCP. Local agencies will have a process for applying for these funds.

Hamparian provided an update on the Senate Parliamentarian ruling that the reconciliation process that was used to pass a previous COVID relief bill can only be used once more this year. This is the process through which infrastructure and other initiatives were planned to be pushed forward through the House and the Senate to advance both Speaker Pelosi's and Senate Majority Leader Schumer's agenda. Hamparian also provided an update on President Biden's meeting with Sen. Shelley Moore Capito to discuss a compromise on the American Jobs Plan. The President has gone down to \$1.7 M while Senate Republicans have gone up to \$950 M.

Hamparian summarized the Authorization Bill in progress by Chairman DeFazio and Chairman Carper. MTA is advocating for expansion of the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, which could benefit the region's transit projects such as the WSAB. The program funding was increased in President Biden's budget, and MTA expects a larger increase to come from Chairman DeFazio's bill.

Member Lowenthal asked if MTA is considering regional partnerships between states to increase competitiveness for funding. Hamparian responded there have been

collaborations in the past, especially with West Coast regions. MTA will continue to work with other states' metropolitan regions and transportation authorities.

President Davila turned to Item D, Metro TAC Update, provided by Director Pfeffer based on the written report provided by Metro TAC member Lisa Rapp, Lakewood Public Works Director. She noted that new Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins officially started work yesterday, and provided a summary of the most recent TAC meeting. The TAC discussed two projects in the region, one in Downey and the other in South Gate, that were scheduled for deobligation of funding, and both were granted one more year to complete their projects. The TAC also received an update on Metro's new street safety policy currently in development, which is aligned with Vision Zero goals to eliminate accidents, deaths and injuries in traffic.

President Davila went back to Report A, Report from Metro Board Director Dutra. Director Dutra provided an update on the Fareless System Initiative (FSI) discussed at the most recent MTA Board meeting. Metro agreed to support municipalities and local operators so they are subsidized to be able to participate in the FSI.

Director Dutra also summarized the 710-freeway project, and the discussion held on the benefits of the freeway. He emphasized that regional collaboration will be important to determine how to modernize the freeway. Director Dutra has recommended planning a working session between the GCCOG, Caltrans, and Metro to review various strategies for modernizing the freeway that also meets community goals and needs. He highlighted additional key priorities for discussion, including accommodating growing need of goods movement, reducing emission reductions, encouraging local hire, funding street upgrades, and ensuring local control. Director Pfeffer added that there's been a shift even at the national policy level toward highway investments, that may begin to affect the future and prospects of the region's highway program. She said staff will host a discussion for Board members to determine needs and how best to collaborate on key priorities of communities.

Member Lowenthal thanked Director Dutra for his passion for the 710 project, and said this has been a lifelong endeavor for many. She noted the Port of Long Beach is in support.

Member Saleh asked about having a discussion opportunity at a future Board Meeting for all corridors. Director Pfeffer responded that staff will move forward on a study session that encompasses all of the highway corridors, as each is unique and has its own set of issues and policy considerations. Member Saleh wants to ensure opportunity for all Board members' involvement and noted that the City of Bell provided a letter in support of Supervisor Solis's motion in regard to the 710.

Luke Klipp, Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Hahn's office noted that Sup. Hahn has requested an update on the 710 in the coming weeks, and asked if the COG Board would want to have a discussion for all corridors or have a separate discussion focused on the

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2021

710 corridors. Director Pfeffer suggested having a discussion at the next Transportation Committee meeting on July 7th, and planning a special Board Meeting to accommodate a larger discussion of the Board. Member Saleh asked to have the discussion focused on the 710 corridor.

President Davila asked for motion to receive and file all reports. Member Cassidy moved and it was seconded by Member Lowenthal. COG staff Arealos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

There were no Matters from the Transportation Committee. There were no Matters from the President.

Adjournment: President Davila adjourned the meeting at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director