

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
 OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
 TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
 Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
 4:30 P.M. Meeting**

Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
 MEETING REMOTE LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

**Chair - MTA Director, Whittier Councilmember – Fernando Dutra**

Meeting called to order at 4:35 by MTA Director Councilmember Fernando Dutra – City of Whittier. Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Genny Cisneros, Karen Heit, Joel Arevalos, Stephanie Cadena, Sandra Mora – GCCOG Staff; Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates; Alejandro Zepeda – City of Bell Gardens; Shannon DeLong – City of Whittier, Jamie Hwang - Supervisor Hahn’s Office; Gregory Farr – Caltrans; Danny Hom, Wally Shidler – Gateway Service Sector Council; Sara Baumann – Long Beach Transit; Thu Nguyen, Mark Dierking, Raffi Hamparian, Steven Lee, Jacob Lieb, Marie Kim, Katie Lemmon, Dominica

Smith, Mark Yamarone – Metro; Nina Turner, Theresa Dau-Ngo, Christina Skacan – Port of Long Beach; Lisa Rapp – City of Lakewood; Axel Ramirez – Norwalk; Justin Lawson – Long Beach; Karen Lee – City of Artesia; Ariel Pe – Lakewood; Michael Parmer – City of Avalon; Ricardo Vasquez – City of Hawthorne, Viviana Castillo – Norwalk Transit; Beth Chow – Norwalk; Natasha DeBenim – Ghirardelli Associates, John Smith – Los Angeles, Callers: 562 367-1193; 626 343 4153.

There was no general public comment or matters from staff. There were no amendments to the agenda. The Consent Calendar was moved and approved.

MTA Director Fernando Dutra announced that he has met with five cities to assess what they need from Metro and what issues, including equity issues, are important to their cities. His plan is to have a summary of what is important to the COG cities when he meets with new Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins. He would like to leave Ms. Wiggins with a list. He announced that he has a few more people to meet with for the job of MTA Transportation Deputy. The successful candidate must understand the politics of the MTA as well as be able to navigate the MTA bureaucracy. Mr. Dutra plans to assemble a strong team.

Mr. Dutra gave a recap of the MTA Board meeting and those items which are of importance to the COG and COG transportation infrastructure project priorities. He highlighted the WSAB/Eco-Rapid Transit project Funding Agreement extension that provides additional funding for the cities' environmental review of the project. The next item of interest was the programming of the CRRSAA funding given to the County for highway funding for new projects that will be allocated to the cities. He asked if Thaddeus McCormack or anyone had seen the notice. Lisa Rapp went over the project funding timing and the necessity of a response by May 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rapp went over the uses of the funding. There was a general discussion on how to best put this memo in front of the Gateway Cities.

Mr. Dutra went over Metro Agenda Items #15 and 15.1 which approved the nomination of MTA's New Starts project priorities for the federal funding queue as well as instructed staff to create strategies that will assist these projects in successfully obtaining federal funding. He went over Board Motion 15.1 which inserted a new project into the federal funding mix. This project is the Inglewood Transit Connector (ITC). He indicated that he and Supervisor Hahn expressed concern about ITC pushing out pillar projects such as WSAB and the Green Line South Bay Extension and were assured that it wouldn't. The Motion passed.

The last item was the discussion of the Fareless System Initiative (FSI) and the questions that were asked and addressed in Motion 43.1. He went over the some of the issues that arose during the Board meeting, the most concerning being project financial sustainability.

Port Commissioner Sharon Weissman suggested that he meet with staff from the Port of Long Beach concerning the traffic impacts from and impacting goods movement, Mr. Dutra agreed to add the Port to his list.

Mr. Dutra called for the MTA budget presentation from Thu Nguyen. Ms. Nguyen outlined the various components of the FY22 MTA budget and its focus on recovery. She highlighted the return to pre-COVID service restoration (back up to 7 million service hours). She indicated that there would be pre-revenue testing done on the Crenshaw/LAX and Regional Connector Light Rail Line projects and that the NextGen service initiative would be in place.

The FY22 Budget total is \$8 billion. She went over a chart that reviewed the budget divided by use of funds, the majority of which are allocated to transportation infrastructure development. The next chart was a revenue chart which indicated that half of all Metro revenues come from local sales tax. She stated that all revenue projections are preliminary. The FY22 contains an increase of 13% over FY21. She went over the highway side of the agency and those expenditures. She went over the commitment to improving the commuter rail program and LINK project at Union Station.

She reviewed the expenditure of \$2.08 billion for transit service and the new services that will come on line. She reviewed the State of Good Repair which has decreased because of decreases in bus and rail car replacement purchases. The bus fleet has been substantially replaced and any new purchases will concentrate on ZE vehicles. A key safety addition is the installation of "Blue Lights" for security along the rail lines. She reviewed the Congestion Management program and other mobility initiatives including planning and active transportation projects, parking, and grants management. Regional funding subsidy programs are estimated to be \$1.38 billion for Countywide transit operations, local return funds, Access Services Inc. paratransit and the low-income LIFE program. The last area reviewed was the agency oversight and the debt program; debt activated for major rail repair.

Ms. Nguyen went over the budget outreach process and the various media outlets that were utilized. She also discussed the equity lens that is applied to all project funding. She went over possible areas where comments can be left on the budget, Mr. Dutra asked for the presentation to be emailed out to committee members.

Mr. Dutra introduced Jacob Lieb who gave a presentation on revisions to MTA's First/Last Mile (FLM) Guidelines. Mr. Lieb reviewed the development of the FLM program and the Metro Board application to rail construction projects. The Guidelines focus on the integration of projects into rail infrastructure. He gave an overview of the FLM plan priority network. He then reviewed the FLM project list that can be applied to the rail station environment. The project lists are extensive and more expansive than can be used in a single area. He discussed how the FLM will be integrated into the 3% contribution as well as the process for development, MTA/Local partnership and handoff for construction.

He went over interface between MTA projects and city projects, highlighting the need for coordination and then reviewed the timeline for response. The expectation is that the Guidelines will be adopted in May. There was a call for questions.

Dominica Smith from Metro's CAPTI program introduced the CAPTI concept. Ms. Smith described why there is CAPTI: because transportation emissions are more than 40% of all statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The CAPTI is represented in two Governor's executive orders. The program leverages the state's investment to lower GHG emissions and plans to switch to greener transportation modes. EO N-19-19 contains over \$5 billion in transportation funding. Ms. Smith reviewed the CAPTI Investment Framework and the investment goals. Most of the goals were consistent with GCCOG transportation goals such as supporting the utilization of ZE vehicles. MTA goals are consistent with CAPTI goals and strategies.

One of the areas of agreement is the utilization for ZE freight vehicles for port and warehouse use. She reviewed the recommendation to have funding made permanently available for active transportation projects. All presentations were received and filed.

There were no items from staff or committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm.