

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, January 6, 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, Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** COG Board President – Mayor Maria Davila, City of South Gate, Councilmember Fernando Dutra – City of Whittier, Councilmember Emma Sharif – City of Compton, Thaddeus McCormack – City Manager, City of Lakewood, Tracy Beidleman – Long Beach Transit, Sharon Weissman – Commissioner, Port of Long Beach, Jocelyn Rivera-Olivas – Supervisor Hahn’s Office, Bill Pagett – Public Works Officer, Martin Reyes – Supervisor Solis’ Office.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Stephanie Cadena– COG Staff, Mahogany Smith, Erica Copeland – CivicSpark Fellows, Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates, Justin Ramirez, Luke Klipp – Metro Transportation Deputies to Mayor Garcia, Lorry Hempe – City of Lynwood, Shannon Delong – City of Whittier, Sara Bauman – Long Beach Transit, Chad Kim, Joseph Forgiarini, Mark Dierking, Mark Vallianatos, Craig Hoshijima, Steven Lee – Metro, Nina Turner, Theresa Dau-Ngo – Port of Long Beach, Andres Molina – WSP.

There was no public comment or matters from staff.

The Consent Calendar was approved, with Tracy Beidleman abstaining.

Justin Ramirez, Metro Board Deputy to Mayor Robert Garcia, made the report on the MTA Board meeting and gave the MTA report beginning with congratulating Whittier Councilman Fernando Dutra on being elected Metro Board Director for the Gateway Cities subregion.

He indicated that Mayor Garcia would continue to serve as Metro Board Member until the election of Councilmember Dutra can be ratified by the LA County City Selection Committee as the Southeast Sector Representative.

COG President Maria Davila had Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer introduce Craig Hoshijima from Metro to make a presentation on the Subregional Equity Program (SEP)

White Paper. Hoshijima gave a short history on the origins of the SEP, which was added to Measure M at the last minute. He reviewed the inflation of the SEP amount and explained that Metro staff was instructed to create a policy for subregions to access the funds. He reviewed use of SEP for the Foothill contract. He outlined the path forward which will include Guidelines going to the Metro Board for adoption in March of 2021 after working with stakeholders.

Karen Heit, GCCOG Transportation Analyst, gave a short presentation on the SEP from a GCCOG perspective. She reviewed a draft comment letter for the committee to forward to the full COG Board. The letter questioned some aspects of funding, the process for recommending projects to the MTA Board, and borrowing procedures.

Commissioner Sharon Weissman, Port of Long Beach, asked for language to be added to allow for the subregion to reserve the right to spend the SEP on one or two projects instead of doling out funding to all the cities. Councilmember Fernando Dutra asked if that meant allowing the SEP to go to a group of cities, Ms. Weissman indicated that it would allow the COG to maintain flexibility.

Executive Director Pfeffer reminded the Committee that projects would require a recommendation of approval to send to the Board for execution. Ms. Weissman suggested adding language specific to allowing the flexibility for a single project as well as distribution to less than all cities. The item was approved to be forwarded to the GCCOG Board with the change in language.

COG President, Mayor Davila of South Gate, introduced Mark Vallianatos, Executive Officer for the Metro Office of Extraordinary Innovation. Mr. Vallianatos gave a presentation on the Metro COVID-19 Recovery Plan and its recommendations. He went over the process and outlined the Plan goals at a high level.

The recommendations included: addressing increased auto ownership, running express buses on improved HOV and express lanes, accelerate networks of complete streets, fully integrate transit in the LA region, offer incentives to reduce auto ownership, and improve rail station amenities. Other recommendations included improving public engagement, gather more data, accelerate Transit-Oriented Community (TOC) development, expand the region's broadband infrastructure, create green jobs and green infrastructure, save funds by becoming more efficient and enhance new revenues. He discussed the relationship of some of the recommendations to other MTA plans and projects. He mentioned teaming up with the arts and performing institutions and venues to provide transit incentives as well as support those institutions.

Karen Heit gave a short presentation of a potential COG letter commenting on the Plan. The letter asks for clarification on the addition of express buses outside of those identified in NextGen and questioned the nexus between loss of transit ridership and increased auto ownership and questioned an increase in lease revenues. The letter encourages the

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advancement of complete streets and expansion of broadband infrastructure with all Metro construction projects.

Councilman Dutra asked which of the recommendations could be done easily and effectively. The item was approved to be forwarded to the GCCOG Board for execution.

Mayor Davila called for the TAC report by Lisa Rapp, there was no TAC meeting held.

Motion to adjourn made at 5:15.