

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gateway Cities Council of Governments 16401 Paramount Blvd.

Paramount, California

April 6, 2022

Zoom Conference

A recording of the Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting can be found at: [CLICK HERE](#)

Presentations shared with the Board of Directors can be found at: [CLICK HERE](#)

GCCOG Chair Cinde Cassidy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

GCCOG Administrative Assistant Sandra Mora took roll call. A quorum was established.

#	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.	Jorgel Chavez	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.	Blanca Pacheco	Downey		X
11.	Luis Roa	Hawaiian Gardens	X	
12.	Karina Macias	Huntington Park	X	
13.	Cory Moss	Industry		X
14.	Ed Eng (E)	La Mirada	X	
15.	Todd Rogers	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.	Angie Jimenez	Montebello	X	
21.	Rick Ramirez	Norwalk	X	
22.	Vilma Cuellar Stallings	Paramount	X	
23.	Erik Lutz	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.	Benjamin Feldman	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis	X	

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31.	Robert Jackson	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell	X	
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
(E) Executive Committee			Total =	27
				5

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Gilbert Saldate, Karen Heit, Ana Pantoja, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Jessica Hale, COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Hammer Sui, Paul Marquez, Caltrans; Costanza Pachon, Whole Child; Michael Cano, Ernesto Chaves, Metro; Christina Skacan, Nina Turner, Shana Espinoza, Port of Long Beach; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Teresa Eilers, SLS Strategy; Roberto Luna, Luna for Sheriff; Lynda Bybee, LSA; Denise Diaz, City of Southgate; Danielle Soto, AQMD; (562) 519-8996, Unknown Number.

Chair Cassidy asked if there were any amendments. There were no requests. One public comment from Robert Luna was received at the meeting. The topic was LA County Sheriff's race.

There were no Matters from the President.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer provided an update on the collection of signatures to letter to White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu. The letter urges him to include Justice40 provisions in the New Starts program guidelines, as this would help the West Santa Ana Branch project be more competitive on the national level. She briefly discussed the COG staff's recommended position on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness recommendations, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Ms. Pfeffer stated that staff was working on a 25th anniversary letter that will go out to all of the COG's associates. She mentioned this is one of several recommendations from our Coro Fellow, Jessica Hale. Ms. Hale introduced herself and the work she is doing at the COG during her eight-week project. Ms. Pfeffer stated that staff has contacted all Board members to switch to direct deposit for stipend payments. This change will resolve a repeat finding by the auditors regarding outstanding stipend checks.

She concluded with updating the Board on the COG's I-710 Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee has met three times since the last COG Board meeting. The Committee has started the process of creating a list of desired early action projects and programs by the end of May. The Committee requested staff to help them produce a tiered grouping of projects in priority order, according to factors such as readiness, ability to fund, and meeting the Committee's guiding principles. The Committee plans to accept public comment at the next meeting, on Monday April 18, and simultaneous Spanish translation will be provided.

Chair Cassidy moved to the Consent Calendar, Items A - BB. Member Rogers moved the item; Member Lima seconded it. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Constanza Pachon, The Whole Child, presented Report A. She gave a brief overview of the organization's focus on housing, mental health, parenting, and nutrition in the Gateway Cities area. The Whole Child has disbursed significant financial assistance grants to families facing homelessness in the Gateway Cities. She concluded with an overview of the The Whole Child's Downey Center for families and the groundbreaking for the Interim Housing and Supportive Service Center in Santa Fe Springs in June 2022. She also thanked the COG cities and touched upon opportunities for partnership. Item was received and filed with no objections.

Paul Marquez and Hammer Sui, Caltrans, presented Report B, Caltrans District 7 Quarterly Update. Mr. Marquez recapped the following policy and funding items:

- Director's Policy 37 focus on Complete Streets (biking, walking, transit and passenger rail) Active Transportation Plan, which is expected to be completed in Summer 2022
- Caltrans Equity Listening Sessions, which Caltrans has created to hear from community members on their transportation experiences and their thoughts on equity. One is scheduled in Wilmington, date and time will be shared with the COG once confirmed.
- Criteria and examples of projects for the Reconnecting Communities initiative, which are planning and capital construction grants
- Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA) - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) formula program
- District 7 Clean California efforts - responses to encampments, Adopt-A-Highway, Dump Days, Clean CA State Beautification Projects, and Clean California Local Grants (many grants to cities with the COG area)

Member Feldman inquired about EV charging opportunities for renters. Mr. Sui will follow up. Item was received and filed with no objections.

Metro Director Fernando Dutra presented Report C, Report from Transportation Committee. Member Dutra recapped the Metro Board's actions in March. This included the response to the 710 Clean Truck Program, introduced by Supervisor Hahn and himself. This was the motion regarding the \$50 million from Measure R for a 710 South Clean Truck Program, and related federal and state advocacy.

The Metro Board approved a motion to create a working group with community colleges and regional occupational centers to establish skills-based courses in transit project construction, operations, and pre-apprenticeships/apprenticeships. This is a follow up based on discussions with Supervisor Hahn and Senator Bob Archuleta, to prepare our communities for jobs related to the WSAB construction.

The Metro Board approved a motion to pursue partnerships in Spanish speaking communities to recruit Metro bus operators. The program will be called Bienvenidos a Metro and will offer flexibility with Metro's English language requirement for bus operators. Member Dutra was pleased to co-author these motions.

Member Dutra launched the Metro Go Pass Program at Cerritos College last week, along with Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins and Cerritos College Superintendent Jose Fierro. This is another fareless system initiative in Southeast LA that will benefit our community college students.

Last, Member Dutra gave an update on efforts related to securing funding for the West Santa Ana Branch. The Metro Board approved a contract modification for \$13.6 million with WSP to provide environmental technical work and outreach to complete the final EIR/EIS. This will include additional analyses of: above-grade/aerial sections of the LPA where cut-and-cover could be constructed at a lower cost; possible design elements for the Rio Hondo Confluence Station; and revised design for the crossing at 183rd/Gridley and an option to study a future station in Cerritos, between Studebaker Road and Gridley.

At the federal level, the federal spending bill which includes funding for federal transportation programs, includes several earmarks for projects in LA County including \$1 million for planning for WSAB. COG staff continues to work with our WSAB cities to finalize their Master Cooperative Agreements with Metro to get ready for a groundbreaking in 2023/25.

Member Dutra turned it over to Gateway City COG staff Nancy Pfeffer and Karen Heit to discuss the Metro Subregional Equity Program Guidelines. The Gateway Cities COG share is \$244 million.

Member Rogers moved the item; Chair Cassidy seconded it. A roll call vote was taken and item was approved.

Michael Cano and Ernesto Chaves, Metro, presented Report D, Metro I-710 EIR/EIS No Build Closeout Update. Mr. Cano gave a brief history of the I-710 EIR/EIS. Metro staff will be recommending to the Metro Board (in May 2022) to rescind the prior Locally Preferred Alternative 5C for the I-710 South, and replace it with a No Build Alternative recommendation. Mr. Cano recapped the ongoing work of the Metro Task Force on this issue, which will be making recommendations to the Metro Board in early 2023.

Member Saro shared that even through Metro will adopt the No Build Alternative, work continues to improve the I-710 corridor and its communities with a new vision. She wanted to make sure the progress doesn't get lost in this discussion.

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Chair Cassidy presented Report E, Metro Gateway Service Council Election. Staff's recommendation was to appoint South Gate Councilmember Denise Diaz, Lynwood Councilmember Marisela Santana, and Huntington Park Councilmember Karina Macias to the Service Council. Member Saleh moved the item; Member Davila seconded it. A roll call vote was taken and item was approved.

Gilbert Saldate, Gateway Cities COG, presented Item F, Update on Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) has developed seven recommendations as it relates to its comprehensive study of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) governance structure. Mr. Saldate is recommending that the COG Board authorize staff to draft a comment letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3a, 4, 5, 6, and 7, except for the local match requirement from cities.

Member Davila moved the recommendation; Member Cuellar-Stallings seconded it. A roll call vote was taken and item was approved. Member Feldman and Member Jackson abstained.

Under Matters from Board of Directors, Chair Cassidy thanked Joel Arevalos for his service to the COG.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director