

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
 SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
 Zoom Conference

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

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

GCCOG Chair Ali Saleh called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

GCCOG staff Ana Pantoja took roll call. A quorum was established.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Tony Lima	Artesia	X	
2.	Lisa Lavelle	Avalon	X	
3.	Ali Saleh	Bell (President) (E)	X	
4.	Raymond Dunton	Bellflower (E)	X	
5.	Liseth Flores	Bell Gardens	X	
6.	Bruce Barrows	Cerritos (E)	X	
7.	Oralia Rebollo	Commerce (E)	X	
8.	Emma Sharif	Compton	X	
9.	Elizabeth Alcantar	Cudahy	X	
10.	Donald E. La Plante	Downey (E)	X	
11.	Luis Roa	Hawaiian Gardens		X
12.	Marilyn Sanabria	Huntington Park (E)		X
13.	Cory Moss	Industry		X
14.	Anthony Otero	La Mirada (E)	X	
15.	Ariel Pe	Lakewood (2 nd Vice President) (E)		X
16.	Suely Saro	Long Beach (E)	X	
17.	Roberto Uranga	Long Beach		X
18.	Marisela Santana	Lynwood (1 st Vice President) (E)	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	Santa Fe Springs (E)	X	
25.	Edward Wilson	Signal Hill (E)		X
26.	Maria Davila	South Gate (Immediate Past President) (E)	X	
27.	Melissa Ybarra	Vernon	X	
28.	Fernando Dutra	Whittier	X	
29.	Herlinda Chico	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Hahn (E)		X
30.	Ben Feldman	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis		X
31.	Irma Galicia	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell		X
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
	(E) Executive Committee	Total =	22	10

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Marisa Perez, Ana Pantoja, Sandra Mora, Jessica Hale, COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Shana Espinoza, Nina Turner, Port of Long Beach; Tyler Bonanno-Curley, City of Long Beach; Daniel Wall, City of Vernon; Jeff Newman, Gregory Farr, Paul Marquez, Edward Francis, Rob Effinger, CalTrans; Sarah Patterson, SCAG; Danielle Soto, Sara Rees, Britney Gallivan, AQMD; Arturo Gonzalez, San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy; Beverly Kenworthy, LaDonna DiCamillo, CA High-Speed Rail Authority; Linda Hunter, Rincon Consultants; Jen Labrado, Green Grass Communications.

Chair Saleh asked if there were any amendments.

There were no public comments.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer updated the Board on the status of bills that the COG took positions on this year, including AB 2419 (Bryan), SB 679 (Kamlager), SB 1251 (Gonzalez), and SB 1104 (Gonzalez). She shared that Joel Arevalos would be returning to the COG to support Gilbert Saldade, in a position funded by the County homelessness grant. She reported that the COG's 2022 Faith Summit will be held on September 14 in Paramount.

Ms. Pfeffer shared that she will be joining a statewide delegation of about fifty policy makers, business and non-profit leaders on a one-week visit to Vienna, Austria, to learn about their social housing model. She will be meeting with policy makers and officials in Vienna to learn how they did this and what lessons can be brought back to California.

She concluded with an update on four grants the COG will be applying for - the Regional Climate Collaborative, LACI/US Department of Energy, federal Safe Streets and Roads for All, and a second round of REAP housing planning grants. The COG anticipates applying for \$1.2 million in REAP funds.

Chair Saleh moved to the Consent Calendar, Items A - Y. Member Santana moved the item; Member Davila seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Metro Director Fernando Dutra gave Report D, Report from Transportation Committee. Director Dutra shared that the committee heard an update on the Rail to River project, which is a proposed active transportation corridor from the Slauson Blue Line station to the LA River in the cities of Huntington Park, Bell, and Commerce. The Metro Board approved maintaining Randolph Street as the preferred alignment for the project, which was supported by COG cities. He asked Metro staff to return in October to develop a funding plan to pay for Rail to River, including environmental clearance, design, and construction.

The Metro Board also approved the release of the revised Measure M 3% Local Contribution Guidelines. This is a very important issue for cities with proposed stations on the WSAB and Eastside Phase 2 light rail lines. He encouraged board members to ask their city managers about preparing comments on the draft guidelines. Comments are due back to Metro on October 25.

Director Dutra shared that the Metro Board approved three items related to the 105 ExpressLane project. Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins will be meeting with the COG City Managers and Eco-Rapid on September 23. He concluded with highlighting the COG's advocacy work on the WSAB, including upcoming state guidelines and funding and the planned trip to Washington DC. He gave an update on efforts to have all 10 cities along the WSAB sign Master Cooperative Agreements with Metro by September 30.

LaDonna DiCamillo, Southern California Regional Director, California High-Speed Rail Authority, gave Report A, Update on California High-Speed Rail. Ms. DiCamillo gave a brief overview of the Authority, with the overall goal of a 2 hour and 40 minutes travel trip from San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim. The Authority is environmentally clearing 500 miles between San Francisco and Los Angeles. 119 miles are under construction in the Central Valley. She recapped the Authority's \$1.3 billion in investments in Southern California, including Union Station, grade separation improvements, and shared corridor and connectivity improvements.

The Authority recently released the draft environmental document for the Palmdale to Burbank section, which is critical to the project. Comment period is from September 2 - November 1. They are scoping the Los Angeles to Anaheim section, which would include 4 stations and a relocation of BNSF freight rail service. A draft environmental document will not be ready until the end of next year for this segment. Public hearings would occur in this time frame as well.

Sarah Rees, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning and Rules, South Coast Air Quality Management District, gave Report B, Draft 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) Overview. Ms. Rees gave an overview of the plan and its goals to meet ozone standards by 2037. The draft AQMP and documents can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>. She reviewed downward ozone trends and highlighted the flattening in 2014, as well as ozone's impacts. She gave an overview of the need to reduce NOx emissions to 60 tons per day by 2037 to meet the standard, and the sources of NOx emissions. AQMD has limited ability to control mobile sources, a key component of NOx emissions. Ms. Rees described AQMD's zero emission strategies, and other advanced technology, to meet this goal. Strategies include reducing stationary sources' combustion and mobile sources' emissions (facility-based, emissions growth, and incentive funding). She recapped the public comment and public hearing processes and the schedule for the final development for the AQMP.

Member Dutra asked about geothermal processes as a way to reduce emissions.

Chair Saleh asked if the region was still in conformity lockdown and what steps are being taken to address this challenge. AQMD is working with EPA and CARB to take actions to move out of the conformity lockdown.

Paul Marquez, Deputy District Director for Planning, Goods Movement, and Local Assistance, and Edward Francis, Deputy District Director for Division of Right of Way, gave Report C, Caltrans Quarterly Report. Mr. Marquez presented the Ambassador Program, which are Caltrans staff liaisons to each city. He recapped various state and federal grants that are available for applications, or are underway. This includes projects within the Gateway Cities that are under consideration.

Mr. Francis presented a report on Caltrans' cargo relief site process, which is part of the Governor's Executive Order 1921. This directed the state to provide temporary cargo containment space. He described the short term leases and the excess land identification process; currently 7 within the Gateway Cities COG, mainly in industrial areas. He reviewed the criteria used to determine if available Caltrans properties can be used for cargo storage.

Member Santana asked about the impacts of storage sites to residential streets, particularly truck traffic. Mr. Francis acknowledged these concerns and noted that some sites may be better suited for this need. He offered to discuss this with Member Santana offline.

Under Matters from the President, Chair Saleh stated that there is a vacancy on the COG's Transportation Committee; interest should be expressed by September 20 to COG staff member Genny Cisneros.

Under Matters from the Board of Directors, Member Lavelle thanked everyone for the letter of support for the Metro application for the City of Avalon.

Adjournment: Chair Saleh adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director