

**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  
February 2, 2022  
Zoom Conference

A recording of the Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx7JRU0jQVg>

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

GCCOG Chair Cinde Cassidy called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

GCCOG Office Assistant Joel Arevalos 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 <sup>st</sup> Vice President)	X	
4.	Raymond Dunton (E)	Bellflower	X	
5.	Maria Pulido	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.	Claudia Frometa (E)	Downey	X	
11.	Luis Roa	Hawaiian Gardens	X	
12.	Marilyn Sanabria (E)	Huntington Park	X	
13.	Cory Moss	Industry		X
14.	Ed Eng (E)	La Mirada	X	
15.	Ariel Pe	Lakewood	X	
16.	Suely Saro (E)	Long Beach	X	
17.	Roberto Uranga	Long Beach		X
18.	Marisela Santana	Lynwood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President)	X	
19.	Heber Marquez	Maywood	X	
20.	Angie Jimenez	Montebello	X	
21.	Margarita Rios	Norwalk	X	
22.	Vilma Cuellar Stallings	Paramount	X	
23.	Raul Elias	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.	Kimberly Ortega	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis		X

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of FEBRUARY 2, 2022

31.	Gabriela Cid	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell	X	
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
		(E) Executive Committee	<b>Total =</b>	<b>26</b>
				<b>6</b>

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Aileen Qin, Melani Smith – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Caitlin Sim, Becky A. Shevlin, Christian Horvath, Marisa Crater - SGCOC; Danielle Soto, AQMD; Daritza Gonzalez, Robert Jackson – Los Angeles County; Gregory Farr, Caltrans; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Kristine Guerrero, California League of Cities; Lynda Bybee, LSA; Nina Turner, Theresa Dau-Ngo – Port of Long Beach; Sarah Patterson, SCAG; Tyler Bonanno-Curley, City of Long Beach; Sean Ashton, City of Downey; Juan Garza, Six Heron; Linda Hunter, Rincon Consultants.

Chair Cassidy asked if there were any amendments; there were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Under Matters from the President, Chair Cassidy shared that in an effort to speed up the annual COG audit process, the annual request for confirmation of revenues paid to the COG will come to city finance directors in the near future. She asked that members assist the auditors by asking finance directors to return back information to the COG as soon as possible. Chair Cassidy asked that COG staff complete the audit in a more timely manner, as compared to the last two years.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer provided an update on the West Santa Ana Branch project and stated that the COG will be putting together an advocacy letter to the White House stressing the importance of FTA incorporating Justice40 into the New Starts program. She will ask for signatures from COG Board Members and Mayors.

Ms. Pfeffer shared that the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee finalized their Guiding Principles for the Corridor, which will be considered for adoption by the COG Board later during the meeting. She also presented the Ad Hoc Committee with the opportunity to nominate the I-710 Corridor as one of the top five most polluting freight corridors under Senator Gonzalez’s bill SB 671, which the COG supported last year. The Committee will now turn to its second goal of developing an early action project and program list. The Committee heard a detailed interactive presentation by Metro consultants on existing conditions in the corridor, including demographics, employment, traffic conditions, and air quality. The Committee will be meeting until May to conclude their work and return to the COG Board with a recommendation.

Chair Cassidy moved to the Consent Calendar, Items A-V, with the exception of Item B. Member Ramirez moved the item; Member Pe seconded it. COG Staff

Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved. Item B, January 5, 2022 Minutes, was pulled by Chair Cassidy; final version of the minutes will be presented at next month's meeting.

Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath and Monrovia Councilmember Becky Shevlin presented Report A, Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH). Councilmember Horvath shared that the main goal of the Commission was to review the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)'s governance and develop actionable recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Councilmember Shevlin shared that COG staff will send out survey to cities to receive feedback on interaction with LAHSA. She also commented that Measure H will sunset in 5 years and the discontinuation of these funds will have significant impacts on service providers. BRCH meeting information can be found at <https://brch.lacounty.gov/>

Member Dutra shared homeless solutions implemented in the City of Whittier and asked how we can help cities put together their own solutions on homelessness. Councilmember Shevlin and Horvath shared many successful solutions implemented by cities across Los Angeles County.

Juan Garza presented Report B, California Legalize Sports Betting on American Indian Lands. Mr. Garza represents the CA Cities for Self-Reliance JPA, comprised of five member cities with local card clubs that include the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, and Hawaiian Gardens. These cities represent 60% of card rooms in California.

Mr. Garza requested that the COG oppose a November 2022 measure, which has qualified for the ballot, the California Legalize Sports Betting on American Indian Lands. If passed, the ballot measure would legalize sports betting at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed racetracks in California (not online betting). Mr. Garza stated that the measure specifically targets card rooms with the inclusion of the Private Attorney General Act. This allows any member of the public to act as Attorney General and sue card rooms that they question. Every card room in the state will eventually die due to numerous legal challenges. If card rooms go away, many cities will be deeply impacted as it relates to daily city services. For many of the card room cities, up to 75% of general fund revenue comes from card room revenue. In addition, card rooms employ 10,000 employees from Southern California cities.

Member Rebollo shared that card rooms provide jobs for residents and asked the COG to oppose the measure.

Member Dunton questioned if the COG should participate in this effort, as it is not related to the COG's main issues.

Member Rebollo emphasized that the jobs created by card casinos allow residents to not fall into homelessness.

Member Pe stated that card casinos engage and support the community and echoed Member Rebollo's support.

Member Santana emphasized the need for economic development in each city and stated that cities should support our partner cities' requests.

Member Sharif shared that cities' card rooms are important community partners and she has seen wonderful work in Hawaiian Gardens.

Member Saleh stated that this is an opportunity for everyone to come together to support neighbor cities.

Member Chavez stated that Bell Garden's card room revenue accounts for 50% of their revenue and has impacts on neighboring cities and jobs. He was pleased to see this on the agenda.

Member Roa stated that 70% of Hawaiian Garden's revenue comes from the card room and cuts would have a huge impact on recreation services.

Member Dutra stated that the COG can only be strong if we are unified and asked the timing on the COG decision to oppose the measure.

Chair Cassidy concluded the discussion by stating that it was important for the COG to come together to support each other, and shared her support to oppose the measure.

Member Dunton stated that after hearing everyone's views, he would move that the COG oppose the measure. Member Frometa seconded the motion.

Chair Cassidy asked if the COG could oppose the measure and bring back a resolution for the COG's signatures at the next meeting and asked Member Dunton to include this on his motion. Member Dunton agreed. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved. City of La Mirada and Supervisor Holly Mitchell's office abstained.

Metro Director Fernando Dutra presented Report C, Report from Transportation Committee. Director Dutra reported that at the January Metro meeting, the Board received an Operations update on several challenges facing Metro including sluggish weekday ridership, bus operator availability/shortage, operator recruitment efforts, and bus service cancellations. Metro is planning to temporarily reduce bus frequency and reduce Revenue Service Hours on February 20 to address this challenge. The earliest that service could be restored is with June 2022 service change. There will be a Eastside Phase 2 receive and file update

given to the Metro Planning Committee on February 16. Director Dutra stated that he will update the COG Board at the next meeting. Metro is scheduling 4 virtual community updates in East LA, Commerce/Montebello, Pico Rivera/Santa Fe Springs and Whittier in March.

Director Dutra also recapped progress on the West Santa Ana Branch Advocacy Plan, which was adopted by the COG board last month, and master cooperative agreements (MCAs) with cities along the WSAB alignment. He acknowledged the cities of Bell, Downey, Huntington Park, and Paramount for completing a MCA already.

Member Chico expressed gratitude and excitement from Supervisor Hahn for the Gateway Cities' WSAB advocacy efforts.

Gateway Cities COG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer presented Report D, Guiding Principles for the I-710 South Corridor. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee has developed a set of guiding principles for the I-710 Corridor. These principles were developed through a series of drafts, each of which was discussed in a public meeting of the Committee. The COG's work will be guided by the 20 principles that address the past harms created by the I-710 Freeway by improving conditions for those who live in and use the corridor, (principles included in staff report). Areas of priority include process, air quality and health, safety, mobility, community experience and aesthetics, and economy. There were also six elements that could be used as potential early projects. These principles will be shared with Metro for consideration by the Metro I-710 Task Force in the development of Vision and Goals for the I-710 Corridor. Member Sharif moved the item; Member Saleh seconded the motion. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Gateway Cities COG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer presented Item E, SB 671 Clean Freight Corridor Assessment – Nomination of Corridors. Ms. Pfeffer reported that the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the I-710 be nominated as the highest- priority corridor for SB 671. COG staff is recommending that the Board nominate two additional priority corridors, for a complete list as follows: 1) I-710; 2) SR-91/I-605/I-405; and 3) I-5. She also requested approval for the COG Board to sign onto a regional agencies' nomination letter for the I-710.

Member Weissman asked if COG staff is recommending specific portions of the nominated freeway for this application. Ms. Pfeffer responded that they would nominate the Gateway Cities portion of these corridors. Member Sharif moved the item; Member Ramirez seconded the motion. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy noted that Items A and C were received and filed. Chair Cassidy recognized two new COG Board Members - Claudia Frometa from Downey and Rick Ramirez from Norwalk.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of FEBRUARY 2, 2022

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Under Matters from Board of Directors, Member Weissman thanked Melani Smith for the collaboration on outreach related to the Port's Sponsorship Program.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director