

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Gateway Cities Council of Governments 16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
January 5, 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 6:03 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 st 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.	Sean Ashton (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 nd Vice President)	X	
19.	Heber Marquez	Maywood	X	
20.	Kimberly Cobos-Cawthorne	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	

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30.	Kimberly Ortega	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis		X
31.	Gabriela Cid	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell	X	
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
		(E) Executive Committee	Total =	26
				6

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Sumire Gant, Aileen Qin, Melani Smith – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Michael Kodama, Eco Rapid; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Jeff Newman, Tony Tavares, Gloria Roberts, Gregory Farr – Caltrans; Viviana Gomez, Luke Klipp – Office of Supervisor Hahn; Shana Espinoza, Nina Turner – Port of Long Beach; Sarah Patterson, SCAG; Linda Bybee, LSA; Kristine Guerrero, League of Cities; Chork Nim, City of Long Beach; Danielle Soto, AQMD.

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 welcomed everyone and looked forward to a good meeting.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer gave an update on COG activities. Ms. Pfeffer introduced Aileen Qin, the new Associate Planner at the COG. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the Chair will begin the annual performance review of her as Executive Director. She reported on the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee’s work. The committee met once since the last Board meeting and discussed the second draft of the principles for the I-710 corridor and received an update on Metro’s I-710 Task Force.

Chair Cassidy moved to the Consent Calendar, Items A-U. Member Dunton moved the item; Member Pe seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Caltrans District Director Tony Tavares presented Report A, Caltrans District 7 Quarterly Update. Director Tavares shared an update on three foundational Caltrans principles – safety, equity, and climate action. He provided an update on the federal infrastructure bill, the state’s Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure or CAPTI (state transportation planning and funding), Complete Streets policy, I-710 South Corridor, and Clean California grants (developing jobs and actions to support cities to clean up areas around freeways). Director Tavares stated he is working with Metro to close out the I-710 EIR and work on any early actions to improve the communities.

Director Dutra asked when the Caltrans decision on the I-710 EIR close-out will become official policy. He also asked if EPA or FHWA approval is needed for the

close-out and early action work. Directors Tavares mentioned a resolution should occur in the next couple of months on this issue.

Director Chico thanked Director Tavares for Caltrans' work on on-ramps and off-ramps.

Director Sharif expressed concerns about 91 freeway off-ramps and suggested beautification in the City of Compton. She inquired about the dates for the grant workshops.

Director Cuellar-Stallings expressed concern about those experiencing homelessness along Downey Ave and Paramount Blvd off-ramps in the City of Paramount.

Director Santana acknowledged Caltrans' work on the 710 and 105 freeways. She expressed support for Caltrans' Ambassador program and felt it has made a great difference in our communities. She also inquired if Director Tavares is available for a City Council presentation.

Gateway Cities COG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer and COG Consultant Sumi Gant presented Report B, Gateway Cities Energy Action Awards ([click here for video](#)). Ms. Pfeffer shared a short video on the awards and announced the Energy Action Awards to COG member cities. This included Bronze: Avalon, Bell, Bell Gardens, La Mirada, Maywood, Santa Fe Springs, and Whittier; Silver: Artesia, Downey, Lakewood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Signal Hill, and South Gate; and Gold: Long Beach, Lynwood and Paramount.

Director Ashton offered congratulations to winners and requested follow-up information for the City of Downey. Directors Dutra and Pe also requested information on Energy Action Awards.

Metro Director Fernando Dutra presented Report C, Report from Transportation Committee. This included approval of two action items, the West Santa Ana Branch Advocacy Plan and the Gateway Cities COG Sign-on to Metro's Golden Opportunity Package. Director Dutra shared that Long Beach City College will be launching GoPass (Fareless) on February 7th, as well as Long Beach Unified School District. Director Dutra presented the West Santa Ana Branch Advocacy Plan prepared by Gateway Cities COG staff. The plan includes a series of recommendations to demonstrate support for the WSAB, starting with the Metro Planning and Programming and Board meetings in January 2022. Director Dutra presented the Metro Golden Opportunity Package letter, signed by the entire Metro Board of Directors.

Director Ashton invited Director Dutra to present to the Eco-Rapid Joint Powers Authority Board.

Director Marquez thanked Director Dutra for the presentation and expressed interest in the WSAB hashtag. He also asked how much of the \$16.5 billion from the Golden Opportunity package would be received for WSAB and when will we know how much money was secured. He also emphasized the need for more transportation investments in Southeast LA/SELA, including connections to Olympics and Rail to River.

Director Chico shared that Supervisor Janice Hahn is asking for commission appointment recommendations from the SELA communities, and is working on a transportation update.

Member Ashton moved the WSAB Advocacy Plan item; Member Davila seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Member Saleh moved the Metro Golden Opportunity Package item; Member Ashton seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Gateway Cities COG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer presented Report D, Gateway Cities COG 2022 Legislative Agenda. Ms. Pfeffer shared the revised Legislative Agenda for 2022, emphasizing community connections, transportation and equity, air quality and the need for zero emission vehicles, and economic development and broadband planning.

Member Weissman suggested that under air quality/climate, that hydrogen vehicles may be part of the solution. Ms. Pfeffer responded that she would add vehicle charging and fueling stations as part of the plan.

Member Ashton moved the item; Member Sharif seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Ms. Cassidy noted that Items A and B were received and filed.

Gateway Cities COG Housing Director Melani Smith presented Item E, Housing Program Report. This included an action item to approve a MOU with Orange County Council of Governments and Ventura County Council of Governments for Subregional Partners Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Related Project. Ms. Smith shared an update on the Housing Program Elements, including HCD coordination, LA County Innovation Grant, and REAP Work Program.

Director Sanabria thanked Ms. Smith for her presentation and asked about ADUs. She asked if this action would tie any cities to a decision on ADUs. Ms. Smith responded no, this would be contributing money to work on this issue.

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Director Ashton asked if there are issues that will not allow us to meet the October deadline for website testing. Ms. Smith responded that there are existing websites that could be used as a model.

Member Ashton moved the item; Member Sanabria seconded it. COG Staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Under Matters from Board of Directors, Member Rebollo asked the COG to consider support for GOG members who also have casinos. She requested that the COG agendaize a discussion opposing a statewide sports tribal initiative at the next Board meeting. There was Board consensus to add this for discussion at the next meeting.

Director Chico shared that Caltrans is working on Truck Parking Study and invited COG Board members to attend and provide comments, as this impacts many COG cities.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director