

**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

May 4, 2022

Zoom Conference

A recording of the Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT4xiiGSIkM>

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

GCCOG Chair Cinde Cassidy called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

GCCOG staff Ana Pantoja 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.	Liseth Flores	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.	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.	Keir Jones	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.	Luke Klipp	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
30.	Ben Feldman	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis	X	
31.	Irma Galicia	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell	X	

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32.	Bonnie Lowenthal	Port of Long Beach	X	
		(E) Executive Committee	Total =	25
				7

Under Matters from the President, Chair Cassidy stated that there are four vacancies on the Committee on Homelessness. Staff will be sending letters to cities requesting members. Chair Cassidy apologized for last month’s public comment made by Sheriff candidate Robert Luna. She did not expect this type of comment at that time. At the end of today’s Board meeting, there will be a closed session item for the evaluation of Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer. Ms. Cassidy stated that she would like to move up the June 29 board meeting to June 22, to ensure the budget is approved by June 30. Staff took a poll and there was enough support to change this date to June 22.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer welcomed new COG board members Lisseth Flores from Bell Gardens and Irma Galicia from Supervisor Holly Mitchell’s office. She also welcomed Ana Pantoja, new COG administrative staff.

COG is pursuing a round of meetings with our state delegation on transportation, state budget, zero emission trucks, and housing. COG officers have been invited to participate, as well as Metro Board member Fernando Dutra.

Ms. Pfeffer updated the board on the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee’s activities. The committee has been refining a list of programs, policies, and projects that could be pursued and forwarded to Metro. COG staff will present the final report at the May 16 committee meeting. It will be brought to COG Board on June 1 for approval, and then forwarded to Metro.

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

Mr. Jonathan Perisho, Watershed Conservation Authority, presented Report B, Gateway Cities Urban Greening Plan. Mr. Perisho recapped the benefits, opportunities and agencies involved with the Plan. Mr. Jeremy Munns presented an overview of the website related to the Plan (https://www.wca.ca.gov/gateway_cities_and_rivers_urban_greening), including watershed planning, local voices, community projects, strategies, benefits, greenscapes, opportunities and mapping tools.

Ms. Kristine Guerrero, CalCities, presented Report C, Ballot Measure Sponsored by the California Business Roundtable. She presented a resolution to oppose No. 21-00421A1, the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act on the November 2022 ballot. Concerns raised include limiting voters’ rights on local measures, making it more difficult to pass local measures to fund local

services, and retroactively canceling local measures passed by voters (including local sales tax measures). She also expressed concerns about the restrictions on fees and charges in the measure.

Chair Cassidy asked Ms. Guerrero for a standard letter of opposition/resolution.

Member Frometa moved to adopt a resolution to oppose No. 21-0042A1, the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act and receive and file the staff report; Member Santana seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved. Members Chico, Galicia and Sharif abstained.

Metro Director Fernando Dutra presented Report D, Report from Transportation Committee. He shared that the Metro Board heard an update on Eastside Phase 2. Metro still plans to release the draft EIR this summer and the Metro Board is still expected to select the Locally Preferred Alternative this Fall 2022. Metro staff presented a list of all the federal, state, and local sources that could be used to fund the budget gap for the project. Four ideas that we need to watch closely are "transfers from other projects and programs in the Gateway Cities", Subregional Equity, value capture, and a higher than 3% local agency contribution from cities. It is important to note that the project may be eligible for the federal Capital Investment Grants (CIG) fund program, if staff completes the required federal clearance. The pot of money for the CIG program has increased significantly since the passage of the Infrastructure Bill and there may be an opportunity for both the West Santa Ana Branch and Eastside Phase 2 projects to apply for these funds.

Mr. Dutra stated that the Board also approved a motion on the 3% contribution required by Measure M for new transit lines. He was pleased to co-author this with Directors Hahn, Garcetti, and Butts. The motion directed the CEO to update the Measure M Guidelines and First-Last Mile Guidelines, and report back to the Metro Construction Committee in June. He stated that jurisdictions will only pay a 3% contribution for project segments that include station construction.

He concluded with an update on the West Santa Ana Branch. Metro reported that they applied for \$1 billion for the state's Cycle 5 transit and intercity rail program grant. However, the pot of money for this transit program may be significantly increased with the state budget surplus. Metro also discussed the use of value capture funds. At the board meeting, Director Dutra emphasized that any type of value capture revenue generated must be controlled by the corridor cities to meet their local infrastructure needs. He invited all COG Board members to travel to Washington DC on September 28-30 to advocate for their project and emphasized the need to sign the Master Cooperative Agreements for each city along the alignment.

Member Dutra concluded with a update on the I-710. In early 2021, both the federal and state governments withdrew support for the project. So-called

“Alternative 5C” had been selected by the Metro Board as the locally preferred alternative in 2018, but this alternative could not meet the air quality analysis requirements set by the U.S. EPA.

On July 7, 2021, the COG Board formed an I-710 Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee’s charge was to focus on community engagement, equity, and effects on the 710 communities and return with final recommendations after 6 months. They committee agreed that they would like to accomplish both guiding principles and recommended early action programs/projects for the I-710 Corridor.

In January of this year, the Committee approved a set of guiding principles. These principles were adopted by the COG Board in February and formally sent to the Metro staff in March for consideration in Metro’s I-710 Task Force process.

Over the last few meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee has been refining a list of projects, programs, and policies. Our COG staff will present a final report for the Committee’s consideration at the May 16 meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee recommendations will be brought to the COG Board for adoption on June 1, and thereafter transmitted to Metro for consideration by the Metro I-710 Task Force. COG staff anticipates developing an advocacy plan for the Committee’s work, possibly modeled on the Advocacy Plan for the West Santa Ana Branch project. He recognized Ad Hoc Committee Chair Elizabeth Alcantar. Chair Alcantar recapped the Committee’s work and emphasized the desire for Metro to prioritize all the projects on the list.

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director, presented Report E, COG Positions on Legislation - AB 2419, SB 1251, and SB 1104. AB 2419 would bring in federal Justice40 provisions into state distribution of federal funds. SB 1251 would establish a new state office for a zero emission advocate to deploy zero emission trucks in the state. SB 1104 would establish a business and economic development office in the Governor’s Office for freight. They are all within the COG’s adopted legislative agenda.

Member Flores moved to approve a support position on AB 2419, SB 1104, and SB 1251; Member Davila seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved. Member Chico abstained.

Melani Smith, Director of Regional Planning, presented Report F, COG Position on SB 679. SB 679 would create the LA County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency. Ms. Smith discussed the amendments the COG would like to recommend for this bill – no local match, one additional local government seat for at-large cities (maintain at 19 seats), ensure small projects can be built, and ensure protections for local land use control.

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Member Pe moved to approve a support position on SB 679; Member Davila seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved. Member Galicia abstained.

Under Matters from Board of Directors, Member Sharon Weissman shared that the Port of Long Beach has been meeting with Metro and UP on the West Santa Ana Branch project, and provided an update on the Pier G and Pier J double track project.

Chair Cassidy stated that the Executive Director closed session item would be moved to the June 1 meeting.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm in honor of South Gate police officer Alexis Gonzalez.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director