

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
 June 22, 2022
 Zoom Conference

A recording of the Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting can be found at <https://youtu.be/h5lfgje3YAw>

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

GCCOG Chair Cinde Cassidy called the meeting to order at 6:13 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.	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.	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 Willson	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	
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
	(E) Executive Committee	Total =	19	13

Chair Cassidy asked if there were any amendments. Chair Cassidy moved Item B to the first report of the evening. Member Davila requested to move Election of the Officers up in the meeting as well. Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer stated that there was a correction with the minutes for June 1, 2022 to note that Board Member Naresh Solanki was present at the June 1 Board meeting.

There were no public comments.

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

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer stated that the COG's Coro Fellow Jessica Hale will be continuing work as as a Program Analyst. She attended an in-person meeting of the Infrastructure LA Regional Partnership Initiative organized by the County. She provided an update on the I-710 Ad-Hoc Committee's work. She shared that the COG's work has been completed on the Florence Corridor Complete Streets Plan.

Under Officer Elections, Chair Cassidy nominated Member Pe as the 2nd Vice President. Member Saleh seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy moved to nominate the slate of officers for the 2022-23 COG Officers. This includes: Past President, Chair Cassidy; President, Member Saleh; 1st Vice President Member Santana, and 2nd Vice President Member Pe. Member Dutra seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Chair Cassidy moved to continue the current membership of the Executive Committee for the 2022-23 year. This includes the officers listed above and the Mayor of Long Beach, Supervisor Hahn's office, and members from the following 8 cities: Bellflower, Cerritos, Commerce, Downey, Huntington Park, La Mirada, Santa Fe Springs, and Signal Hill. Member Dunton seconded it. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director presented Report D, Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan, Budget & Budget Resolution. Ms. Pfeffer thanked COG staff Genny Cisneros for the development of the budget. The budget has grown again, to just over \$10 million in revenues, a 20% increase from last year. This is mainly due to a increase in Measure H, LA County's Homelessness Initiative funds. Revenue for the COG comes from three sources – membership dues, program funding/ongoing funding sources like Metro, and funds that will likely not continue/one-time sources. This indicates the state and county's focus on housing and homelessness. COG expenditures are projected to be just under \$10 million. This is about \$220,000 less than the revenues. The COG will continue to focus on

four key policy areas – air quality, transportation, housing, and economic development.

As part of the budget, four long-standing COG employees are scheduled for a 5.9% salary increase this year. If the budget is approved, Ms. Pfeffer will bring back a revised Executive Director employment agreement in August to reflect this change. Mr. Gilbert Saldate will also be promoted to Director of Regional Homelessness Programs; the promotion is well deserved after his 3 years at the COG.

She recapped a part of the Staff Report which stated that “For well over a decade, the COG’s Gateway Connections homelessness initiative has provided direct outreach and services to those experiencing homelessness in our region, in partnership with the nonprofit PATH (People Assisting the Homeless). Since inception, the program has helped to house over 2,000 such individuals. The FY 22-23 budget reflects remaining unspent funds under the current agreement with the County, which expires in October 2022. The COG staff is working with the County to determine future plans for funding”.

Ms. Pfeffer concluded with details on other areas of potential funding opportunity for the COG. This includes the Local Agency Technical Assistance grants for broadband planning, the new state Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC) program, construction and communications liaison positions for the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) project, and SCAG Subregional Partnership Program for REAP funds for housing planning.

It was moved by Director Dutra to adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget and seconded by Director Cuellar-Stallings. COG Staff Pantoja performed a roll call and the item was approved.

Metro Director Fernando Dutra presented Report B, Report from Transportation Committee. This was a recap of Member Dutra’s first year representing the Gateway Cities COG on the Metro Board of Directors. Highlights included:

- Pursued Zero Emission Trucks for 710 Communities through Metro Task Force and COG Ad Hoc Committee
- Partnered with Supervisors Hahn, Solis, and Mitchell to secure \$50 million from Measure R for a 710 South Clean Truck Program to replace diesels trucks with zero emission trucks and pursue aggressive federal and state advocacy and funding
- Organized and rallied COG cities to speak in support of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) of the West Santa Ana Branch Project (WSAB), as well as advocating for funding for the project at the federal and state level
- Completed four Master Cooperative Agreements (MCAs) for WSAB to define roles, reduce risks, and ensure cities get paid for their work on the project

- Co-authored motion to expand Metro's Workforce Initiative Now program to expand construction, operations and pre-apprenticeships for Metro, at Cerritos and Rio Hondo colleges
- Launched Fareless System Initiative (FSI) for K-12 and Community College Students at LAUSD, Long Beach Unified, Paramount Unified, Whittier Union, El Rancho Unified, Cerritos College, Long Beach City College, and various other charter school networks
- Adopted balanced \$8.8 billion FY 2023 Metro Budget, including planning funding for WSAB, Eastside Phase 2, I-105, I-605, and I-710; \$300 million investment in public safety – transit ambassadors, homeless outreach, and unarmed security, and a new law enforcement RFP; and restoration of bus service hours to pre-pandemic levels
- Released the draft EIR for the Gold Line Extension - Eastside Phase 2
- Adopted Subregional Equity Guidelines with funding estimates for the COG to be available in October of each year
- Adopted Three (3%) Motion to update the Measure M guidelines and clarify that cities will only pay 3% obligation for project segments that include station construction
- Participated in the groundbreaking for a new grade separation at Rosecrans/Marquardt in Santa Fe springs – improve safety, benefit Amtrak and Metrolink, and support goods movement
- Approved agreements for environmental and design work on the LA River bike path from downtown LA to the lower part in the Gateway Cities
- Began developing Bienvenidos a Metro to pursue partnerships in Spanish speaking communities to recruit Metro bus operators

Melissa Park, Manager, Transportation Planning Metro, presented Report A, Metro Bike Share Update and Industry Forum. Ms. Park reviewed the benefits of bike sharing. The current program started in 2016 with zones in downtown Los Angeles, Westside, and North Hollywood. The target size is 1,800 bikes and 200 stations. A 30-minute ride costs \$1.75. The current operator contract with BTS ends in July 2023. She recapped data including ridership of 20,000 riders in April 2022. The costs for the program are shared by LADOT (the operator of the current bike share program) and Metro. Metro is convening an industry forum on August 22 to develop recommendations for bike sharing regionwide. Metro plans to complete these recommendations by September 2023.

There were no items under Matters from Board of Directors.

Under Matters from the President, Chair Cassidy made the following appointments to the Committee on Homelessness: Member Rebollo, Member Zamora, Member Dunton, Member Roa, and Member Uranga. There was not a quorum to approve this item, so it was moved to August Board meeting.

Member Wilson wanted to wish everyone a Happy 4th of July and belated Juneteenth.

Member Santana requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of the City of El Monte police officers who recently passed away, Sgt. Michael Paredes and Officer Joseph Santana.

Chair Cassidy concluded with gratitude to her colleagues for the encouragement and support as COG Chair and member of the Board. She also acknowledged the hard work of COG staff, and Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer.

Member Rebollo thanked Chair Cassidy for her leadership of the COG.

Adjournment: Chair Cassidy adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director