

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

4:00 P.M. Meeting

Gateway Cities Council of Governments
MEETING REMOTE LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Chair - MTA Director, Whittier Councilmember – Fernando Dutra

Meeting called to order at 4:08. Meeting called to order at by MTA Director Councilmember Fernando Dutra – City of Whittier. Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

#		City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy	COG Board President	X	
2.	Ali Saleh	COG 1 st Vice President	X	
3.	Marisela Santana	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
4.	Fernando Dutra, Chair	MTA Board of Directors	X	
5.	Emma Sharif	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
6.	Maria Davila	Board of Directors Member Appointed by the President	X	
7.	Luke Klipp	Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
8.	Martin Reyes	Office of Sup. Solis	X	
9.	Lisa Patton	Transit Operator/Long Beach Transit	X	
10.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
11.	Thaddeus McCormack	CM Steering Committee, Chair	X	
12.	Ernie Hernandez	City Manager		X
13.	Kevin Jackson/Tyler Bonnano-Curley	City of Long Beach	X	
14.	Bill Pagett	Public Works Officer	X	
15.	Ed Norris	Public Works Officer	X	
Total =			14	1

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Karen Heit, Aileen Qin, Nancy Michali - GCCOG Staff: Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates: Michael Kodama, Raffi Hamparian, Michael Turner, Maritza Romero, Steven Lee, Mark Dierking – LA Metro, Lorry Hempe, Laura Ochoa – City of Lynwood, Andrew

Ross – LA County, Philip Crabbe, Denise Peralta Gailey – AQMD: Nina Turner. Christina Skacan, Theresa Dau-Ngo – Port of Long Beach, Lynda Bybee – LSA, Wally Shidler – Metro Service Council, Karen Lee – City of Artesia, Viviana Gomez – Supervisor Hahn's Office, Vanessa Bautista – Senator Lena Gonzalez Office, Natasha DeBenon – Ghirardelli Assoc.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03, attendance was taken by self-introduction. There were no public comments or amendments to the Agenda. There were no matters from staff. Director Dutra requested the departure date for Joel Arevalos which is April 15th. Various Committee members expressed regret that Mr. Arevalos is leaving.

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

Director Dutra gave a summary of the February Metro Board of Directors meeting, The Metro Board received an update on the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase 2 (MGLEE2) and the development of two Initial Operational Segments (IOS). They are IOS-1 to from Atlantic to the City of Commerce for 3.2 miles and IOS-2 from Atlantic to Greenwood. There is \$3.5 billion in funding available for the project. Metro staff will be developing a funding plan for this project. Director Dutra complimented the Washington Blvd. Coalition on their continued work to secure funding and support the project. The group has requested a funding timeline to use as an advocacy tool much like the WSAB.

Director Dutra went on to report on the recommendations put forth by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) on reimagining transit law enforcement, and reported on CEO Wiggins delivering a survey of riders and employees. Safety, and the perception of safety and the presence of homeless individuals impacts the potential growth in ridership.

Director Dutra presented the key milestones schedule for the West Santa Ana Branch Light Rail Corridor Project (WSAB) which has been accepted for the project development phase for the federal Capital Investment Grants program, the first step towards federal funding eligibility. He gave a recap of the WSAB Advocacy Plan and the work done by both COG staff and the Eco-Rapid Transit JPA staff. He thanked Huntington Park Councilmember Karina Macias for her testimony at the California state budget hearing. He went over next steps which include the MTA requesting \$850 million from the state's 2022 Cycle 5 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and subregional funding. He asked that support letters be sent out on behalf of each COG city to support the project. The COG has also developed a COG delegation letter to Mitch Landrieu, White house Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator to ensure that the Justice 40 principles help give our disadvantaged communities maximum support for funding our project.

Director Dutra went on to discuss the contract modification for the WSAB for the completion of the environmental clearance of the alignment and the completion and analysis of the Downtown project phase. COG staff is drafting an Op-Ed piece for use by the COG. He also requested that COG and JPA members reserve March 16 at 9:30 am in support of the state budget actions. Staff to provide testimony and talking points.

Luke Klipp, Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Janice Hahn, will be leading a delegation to Washington DC to encourage funding for the project. He also announced that the Supervisor is seeking to rename and rebrand the project from West Santa Ana Branch. Maria Davila mentioned that the project has been called the Eco-Rapid Transit for many years. The historical data of the existing name will be provided. There was general discussion on the name.

Director Dutra introduced Craig Hoshijima, Metro Capital Planning staff, who gave a presentation and background on the development of policy and guidelines for the Subregional Equity Program (SEP) in the Multi-year Subregional Program section of the Measure M Expenditure Plan. Mr. Hoshijima went over the history of the SEP and how the funding was not included in the original Measure M funding plan. He went over the various Metro Board Motions that restrict Metro staff allocation of SEP for overruns. Funding is interchangeable for MSP programs. He went over the schedule for the SEP. Director Dutra asked if the funds would be available this October. Mr. Hoshijima stated that the amounts would be released for five-year increments beginning in October Of 2022.

Nancy Pfeffer indicated that Wally Shidler had additional information on the name of the WSAB/PE. Returning to the SEP program, Ms. Pfeffer asked when the actual Guidelines can be released. Mr. Hoshijima indicated that the Guidelines are part of a larger report and will be released along with that report. The report was received and filed.

Director Dutra asked for the Metro Federal and State report. Raffi Hamparian talked about the federal process and the granting of a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA). Mr. Hamparian indicated that the project would be examined carefully to make sure it is environmentally and financially viable. Mr. Hamparian indicated that there's a special emphasis on Justice40 criteria. The guidance is probably coming out this fall. Director Dutra called for questions for Mr. Hamparian, seeing none he introduced Michael Turner who began by thanking people who testified before the state budget subcommittee hearings. He indicated that the hearings are largely administrative and information gathering. He mentioned that Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Laura Friedman and Senator Lena Gonzales as well as Senator Maria Elena Durazo would be making recommendations. Director Dutra asked what the Tiger Team is doing as far as qualifying for appropriate funding. Mr. Hamparian mentioned that Laurie Lombardi and Heather Raepenning would be the leads in seeking funding. Director Dutra asked how many people are on these teams and Mr. Hamparian indicated that there are a "lot". Director Dutra called for a Motion to receive and file this report.

Next Director Dutra called for the Metro TAC meeting report. TAC Member Ed Norris started with the standard reports from subcommittees. The BOS was the only reporting subcommittee. The BOS reported on a countywide issue with not having enough operators to run service during COVID.

Mr. Norris went over the state Active Transportation (AT) Cycle 5 workshop to help LA County jurisdictions to improve the effectiveness and competitiveness of their projects. He went over the schedule for the workshop and the application. Metro will be providing assistance with applications.

Mr. Norris went over the funding for MGLLEE2 and gave more detail, as well as the alignments that had been determined. He reviewed the Measure M funding dates, the IOS determination and the next steps including follow-up for the document and decisions about IOS selection. He discussed community meetings ahead of the document and the actual CEQA-mandated public meetings required by the EIR. He concluded his report with the schedule of the informational reports.

Director Dutra called for questions, seeing none he asked for a motion to receive and file the report.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08.

Director Dutra requested matters from Committee Members, seeing none the meeting was adjourned at 5:11.

There were no matters from Committee members and the meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

