

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

Wednesday, February 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 4:05. 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	City of South Gate	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.	Michelle Burke/Karen Lee	City Manager, City of Artesia		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 =			10	5

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Marisa Perez, Aileen Qin - GCCOG Staff; Norman Emerson – Emerson & Associates; Mike Kodama, Eco-Rapid; Lynda Bybee, LSA; Wally Shidler; Michael Turner, Raffi Hamparian, Mark Dierking, Steven Lee, Metro; Lorry Hempe, City of Lynwood; Andrew Ross, LA County; Nina Turner, Port of Long Beach; Philip Crabbe, AQMD;

The meeting was called to order at 4:07, attendance was taken by self-introduction. There were no public comments or amendments to the Agenda.

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

Director Dutra gave a summary of the January Metro Board of Directors meeting, noting that the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) project would be the subject of a separate report. He first discussed the impact of COVID 19 and the resultant lack of bus operator availability and the impact this has had on bus and rail service, causing Metro to cut bus service and reduce service hours to stabilize service. He requested members call him with any issues with service reductions. Metro staff estimates service could be restored in June.

He went on to report on an update for the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase 2 and the creation of two Initial Operations Segments (IOS) for constructability and funding. He went over the scheduling for the release of the EIR that details the IOS and went over the public outreach efforts.

Marisa Perez requested Michael Turner be moved up front to accommodate his evening flight. Mr. Turner discussed the "Golden Opportunity" package for an investment in transit projects given the California state budget surplus. Mr. Turner stated that the budget surplus will not be available until after the May budget revise but this does not mean that Metro and other supporters should not advocate for LA County priorities. Mr. Turner suggested coordinated ongoing advocacy for these projects.

Mr. Turner gave an update on Metro activities to promote the I-710 Clean Truck Program including a series of meetings to encourage the deployment of clean vehicles in the Gateway Cities Subregion. There will be a meeting with the head of CARB and organizing the efforts of the ports and other local stakeholders. He went on to discuss some procurement bills for the MTA. He talked about the proposal to expand paid leave. He discussed SB 288 that provides an exemption for certain types of transit projects from CEQA, Metro is looking for an author and may be asking Senator Anthony Weiner.

Director Dutra brought up the list of project priorities being submitted by David Kim to Secretary Buttigieg. Mr. Turner stated that the document provides a single point of contact for working with the federal government but doesn't appear to provide any funding. He stated that it was a matter of matching funding opportunities to projects.

Director Dutra asked about being part of supporting project funding for the WSAB and Mr. Turner outlined that there would be opportunities for letter writing as well as testimony. Mr. Turner indicated that the speaker and chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee Cristina Garcia. Maria Davila asked if additional letters need to be sent to the subcommittee; he replied that resending these letters was vital. Marisa Perez mentioned that staff would be drafting a letter for the cities to use. There was a Motion to Receive and File this report.

Mr. Dutra went over the WSAB advocacy plan. Mr. Dutra thanked councilmembers that spoke at the Metro committees and Board Meeting. He went over a summary of the Metro Actions including the designation of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). He noted Supervisor Hahn's support for the entire project to be completed in a timely manner. He reviewed the elements of the Hahn, Solis, Mitchell, Garcetti and Dutra Motion requesting P3 methods be used to accelerate construction of the entire project and not phase implementation. This Motion also addresses the studies for the potential Rio Hondo Station and the completion of the Little Tokyo route.

He moved into the progress on the advocacy plan implementation. He talked about methods for securing more project proponents from the business community. He asked for volunteers for op-ed pieces in the local papers. Ali Saleh and Maria Davila volunteered to lend their offices to this task.

Mr. Dutra next discussed the implications of pursuing Justice40 to highlight the project. He then went on to discuss the necessary execution of the Master Cooperative Agreement (MCAs) that are critical to coordination of project construction with the individual cities. He talked about the four cities that have approved their MCA and called out those who had not. Councilmember Maria Davila indicated that South Gate would be approving the MCA soon, attributing the delay to the loss of the city manager as well as the Community Development Director. Mr. Dutra indicated that he would speak with all the noncompliant cities and try and assist them in getting the agreements signed. Luke Klipp related that Supervisor Hahn was "blown away by the show of community support for the WSAB. Mr. Klipp also stated that this effort must be sustained in the future. There was a Motion made to Receive and File the item.

Director Dutra then introduced Phillip Crabbe, Senior Public Affairs Manager for the South Coast AQMD. Mr. Crab's report is on the Clean Trucks Program and a legislative update. The Governor's budget including \$315 million available statewide for ZE drayage trucks, and ZE transit vehicles, and \$500 million for medium and heavy duty trucks and \$45 million to replace diesel trucks with near ZE in extreme non-attainment areas like the South Coast area. Each legislative body will create their own proposals and an agreement will be negotiated. The Governor's FY23 transportation proposal will include \$9.1 billion in transportation improvements along with \$6.1 billion over 5 years for ZE vehicles. The total proposed investment is \$10 billion for vehicles and infrastructure including and port electrifications over six years. A Motion to Receive and file the report was made.

The next item was presented by Ed Norris, GCCOG representative on the MTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Norris deferred to Raffi Hamparian, Metro Director of Federal Legislative activities for the federal report. Mr. Hamparian reviewed the federal process for obtaining an FFGA (Federal Funding Grant Agreement). This proposal to the Feds will be the largest FFGA ever requested by Metro. Mr. Hamparian discussed the upcoming applicability of this project to match up with Justice40 criteria for the federal CIP Program. Mr. Hamparian indicated that this project is well qualified to receive benefit from that program. Director Dutra asked if the Justice40 initiative can be integrated into

the application by Metro. Mr. Hamparian referenced an OMB Circulator that defines disadvantage and communities and would be the template for MTA incorporating these definitions into the application. Once the guidance is out the MTA must be nimble in meeting these federal goals and defining the project in those terms. Mr. Hamparian indicated there is an online map that helps support meeting the interim guidance criteria. Director Dutra asked if increased funding program level may allow higher FFGAs or more projects to be included. Mr. Hamparian indicated that that is a possible scenario. Some products may exceed the \$100 million per year cap.

Mr. Norris resumed his report on the activities from the Metro TAC. He reported on a vacancy for the pedestrian coordinator. He announced the I-710 Corridor Community Relations Committee is seeking members to help create a community outreach program. He gave an update on the TAC recommendation for \$103 million for I-605 California Transportation Commission (CTC) and the three projects established by SB-1. Mr. Norris then went over the availability of State Active Transportation Cycle 6 project guidelines and the upcoming schedule for applications. Project cost definitions are being developed for the Cycle 6 Guidelines, including changes after project award. The draft fund estimate has been released and is much larger due to a release of federal funding. The draft fund estimate will be announced by the CTC along with the Guidelines in Match. There will be a CTC virtual workshop focusing on Los Angeles County AT activities and issues.

Next, Mr. Norris reported on the Metro Traffic Reduction Study which focuses on reducing traffic through congestion pricing, improving regional mobility, achieving certain economic goals. The study concentrates on the I-405 freeways through the Sepulveda pass and Santa Monica and the I-101 from downtown LA to Santa Monica. Next steps will include the public input component.

Mr. Norris briefly hit on highlights for the WSAB and the project implementation schedule presented to the TAC. This overview including items such as First/Last Mile Planning, advanced utility relocations and construction.

He reported on the North Hollywood/Burbank/Eagle Rock BRT project and the project alternatives that had been considered including issues with the removal of curbside parking. The next step is finalization of the environmental document. The last item on the TAC agenda was the legislative update that was already presented. There were no questions, and the report was received and filed.

The next item was a brief report by GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer on the I-710 corridor process. She gave a brief history of the activities of the I-710 Ad – Hoc Committee and the creation of principles for project implementation. The recommendation was going to the COG Board for approval. She presented the principles as created by the Committee. There were no questions and the report was received and filed.

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.

