

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
November 7, 2018**

President Fernando Dutra called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

PRESENT: President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Immediate Past Pres. Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
1st Vice President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada
Member Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Jennifer Perez, City of Norwalk
Member Diane J. Martinez, City of Paramount
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
2nd Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT:

Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long
Member Robert Uranga, City of Long Beach
Member Joaquin Lanuza, City of Maywood
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera

Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

Member Bonnie Lowenthal, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison, Port of Long Beach; Lance Grindle, Principal Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Diana Tang, Manager of Government Affairs, City of Long Beach; Sharon Weissman, Metro Board Deputy to Mayor Garcia; Mark Stowell, Director of Public Works, City of La Mirada; Sonia Southwell, Director of Community Development, City of Lakewood; Greg Farr, Principal Project Manager, Caltrans; Constanza Pachon, CEO, The Whole Child; Chau Vu, Director of Public Works, City of Bell Gardens; Gladis Deras, Senior Engineer, City of South Gate; Vaniah De Rojas, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Downey; Carolina Hernandez, Sr. Civil Engineer, LA County Dept. of Public Works; Christine Waitman, Civil Engineer, La County Dept. of Public Works; Martin Reyes, Transportation Deputy, LA County 1st District; Scott Kalin, President of Scott Kalin & Associates; Michael Ervin, Deputy, Officer of Supervisor Hahn; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director, I-5; Norm Emerson, Gateway Cities COG Consultant; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Analyst Karen Heit; Sandra Mora, COG Staff; Stephanie Cadena, COG Staff; and Genny Cisneros, COG Staff.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Davis, City of Vernon.

There were no amendments or changes to the agenda.

There was a speaker for public comments.

Under public comment, Michael LefFall from GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit administrator for the no cost solar and training opportunities program. Mr. LefFall described the availability of free solar panels for certain qualifying areas. He is asking for COG assistance in getting the word out on the GRID program. The grants cover solar panels for single and multi-family residential as well as electric car charging equipment. He wants to partner with the cities and residents who qualify for the program. He would like to return at a future COG Board meeting and make a formal presentation. SCE is paying for a portion of the program, the rest is financed through Cap and Trade funds. He will distribute the information by an email from the COG. Herlinda Chico requested that a more formal presentation be made. The program also includes a workforce development piece that supervises the training of electricians. A question was asked re: What are the guidelines for the condition of the roof before the solar panels are installed? Michael LefFall answered that there is an ability to replace roofs that cannot survive for 20 years. A question was asked re: Do mobile homes qualify? – the answer is yes. There is a financial qualification portion that includes adjacency to areas with freeways and factories. He referred to a map of the qualifying area and stated that income verification is part of

the equation. Nancy Pfeffer, GCCOG Executive Director mentioned that the GRID program is part of the COG's CAP framework.

For the next item from staff Nancy Pfeffer congratulated City of Lakewood Community Development Director Sonia Southwell on her retirement and presented her with a plaque. GCCOG President Fernando Dutra also recognized Ms. Southwell for her 32 years with the City of Lakewood in Portuguese. Southwell spoke about her years in planning in Lakewood and her participation in the COG. She indicated that she will be retired but still around. Lakewood Councilmember Diane DuBois discussed her years working with Ms. Southwell and praised the breadth and depth of her knowledge. DuBois thanked Southwell her for her work and the love she has given the community.

Executive Director Pfeffer brought up the City of Paramount getting a clean air award from AQMD. She discussed the finalist status for the LAEDC Eddy awards that will be given out tomorrow night. She provided the Board with a copy of comments made to Port of Long Beach. She discussed other climate program presentations she has given. She also indicated that she would be applying for additional grants for CAP.

The Consent Calendar was approved unanimously.

President Dutra introduced Contanza Pachon from the "Whole Child" in Whittier, a non-profit that specializes in providing services to families in distress and homeless children. The organization serves between 1000 to 4000 clients who are predominately single mothers with children. She discussed the structure for SPA-7 and the role of Whole Child as the lead agency for families in SPA-7. SPA-7 covers most of the cities in the GCCOG. She went over the accomplishments of Whole Child in addressing the issue of homeless families including the prevention of homelessness. She mentioned that homeless families do not fare well in the homeless "place in time" counts as homeless families are harder to detect. Whole Child has used most of their funding for the year. Most of the families are the working poor who need a hand up not a hand out. Due to intervention, the homeless population has dropped by 11%. The organization is headquartered in Whittier but the facility is in Santa Fe Springs. The organization is helping the cities with homelessness plans.

Helping homeless families need to be a regional effort, families tend to move around within cities but remain in the area. Majority of the families served come from Whittier, Santa Fe Springs and surrounding cities. Councilmember Maria Davila asked about how to handle families that are in school. School districts have a homeless coordinator – schools refer families to the homeless coordinator. A lot of families with school aged children are living in their cars.

Councilmember Christian Hernandez asked about how cities use the grants – does a city need to front the grant and be reimbursed? Pachon answered that the city will be the applicant and pass the money through to the non-profit. President Dutra related the City of Whittier's experience with family homelessness. He encouraged other cities to reach

out to Whole Child. There is no restriction based on immigration status, there are geographic restrictions.

The next presentation was given by Carolina Hernandez, Sr. Civil Engineer Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. She gave an LA River Master Plan Update. She reviewed the river and the old 90's LA River Master Plan. Since 1996 there have been over 100 different projects developed for the river, the most recent River Master Plan was ordered by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors who tasked the Public Works Department with creating the Master Plan. The Public Works Dept. created a 44 person steering committee to guide the process assisted by consultants. Hernandez discussed the public outreach and the plan to have a draft Master Plan by the end of next year. There will be various subcommittees that will address topics such as, water resiliency, people, equity and hydrology. There are 12 scheduled public meetings. She discussed Public Works efforts with high school students and their outreach to non-profits that are concerned with the river. She quickly reviewed the draft goals for the plan and urged people to go through the goals in more depth. She went over upcoming meetings for the Master Plan. President Dutra asked where the funding comes from for the effort. The funding is coming from property taxes to fund the planning studies – construction funding has not yet been determined.

The President called for approval of items A & B. It was moved by Member Lewis and seconded by Member Hernandez to receive and file report both reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Dutra introduced Diana Tang from the City of Long Beach. Tang discussed the waste disposal center jointly owned by Los Angeles County and the City of Long Beach. The waste to energy program reduces the amount of trash that goes to landfills and gives the cities' trash reduction credits. Long Beach burns this trash and uses the steam to turn turbines. The remainder of the ash is converted to trash. Illegal drugs are also incinerated, providing an outlet for enforcement agencies to use the incinerator method. She went on to describe how the burn-off is handled.

CARB wants to bring in \$35 million (over 12 years) in charges for waste/energy. Tang would like waste/energy to be treated equitably with regulators as landfills are exempt from these fees. Tang would like Gateway Cities to support the equitable treatment of the two waste/energy plants in the state. CARB is charging for waste/energy plant emissions while landfills pay nothing. She provided each city with what they place in the Long Beach/LA County facility. The facility will close if these new fees are levied. Diane DuBois says the value to Lakewood is greater than the fees paid by the city.

There was a show of hands for approval of a letter to CARB in support of the facility. The item was moved by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Pineda. The cities of Santa Fe Springs and Bellflower voted no and the city of Lynwood abstained. The motion was approved by the remainder of cities.

President Dutra introduced I-5 Executive Director, Yvette Kirrin who gave a report on the

I-5 project and potential methods of project acceleration. The five I-5 JPA cities got together to fund a study to examine alternative delivery methods and funding to advance the I-5 earlier than the 2035 Measure M date. She reviewed the current I-5 project and its progress. She then went over the four-delivery options Design Bid Build, Early Bond Finance, Design/Build and Public/Private/Partnerships (3P). She then went on to review the possible time and money savings. Each method has different levels of time and finance savings.

She went into greater detail on the 3P payment schedule that front loads funding and disburses Measure M money during the 2036-2042 period. She reviewed the comparative assessment summary using the traditional funding as the baseline for the early bond, Design/Build and 3P. She reviewed the monetary savings from accelerating the project and how these scenarios utilize Measure M cash flows to be allocated to Gateway Cities in the ordinance.

She described the potential role for Caltrans in design for the project. She talked about the possibility of early bonding but pointed out that early bonding might impact other Gateway Cities projects.

She went over the Acceleration/Deceleration Policy and the findings for accelerating the project if it meets the criteria.

She finished with the request for a letter of support for a grant to study an EIFD for project implementation. EIFD can be used for small and large projects. She is proposing a 3P hybrid that might include the Metro Gold Line and the I-5 and perhaps the Eco-Rapid Transit Line. MTA would need to advance a small amount of Measure M tax ahead of schedule.

She brought up the issue of the need to reauthorize public/private/partnership (3P) legislation that will allow MTA to initiate 3P as a project delivery methodology. Caltrans and MTA must deal with the unions and PECG. SCAG has the ability to establish an EIFD framework for the I-5 JPA to see if there is sufficient capacity within the project area to support the 3P project.

Herlinda Chico asked if Caltrans is a willing partner with their funding. The answer was that Caltrans is not the big funding partner, MTA has the \$1.5 billion for this project. Caltrans will have a role probably through design. President Dutra asked about the 3P option, are the other options too expensive? Debt financing may cost too much for MTA to accelerate the funds. This study will further the investigation of the option for funding the study.

It was moved by Member Saab and seconded by Member Saleh to approve the letter of support for the I-5 PPP. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item was Service Council Member presentation, which was deferred to the next meeting to allow the applicants sufficient time to schedule presentations.

The Board approved the appointment of MTA Technical Advisory Committee members Lisa Rapp of Lakewood and Ed Norris of Downey as the alternate.

It was moved by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Perez to approve appointments. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sharon Weissman, MTA Board Deputy gave the MTA Board report reviewing the MGL/Crenshaw/LAX operation plan, stating that there are only two options remaining on the table. MTA Staff is still recommending C-1. MTA Staff has been tasked with providing a financial plan for the 28x28 plan, this report will return in December.

Weisman reported on MTA creating a report on bicycle parking at metro rail stations, and a Bonin/Garcia/Hahn motion over cleanliness of the rail right-of-way and the buses. She reported on MTA's mobility on demand pilot projects, first and last mile with ride hailing services operated by VIA with operator owned vehicles. Her last item was the announcement that there was a fare free day for Election Day.

It was moved by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Lewis to receive and file reports A-H. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Dutra mentioned that the environmental consultant was selected for Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase II.

Julia Brown announced various projects that are to be heard during the next MTA meeting,

President Dutra proceeded to asked if there were any questions regarding items A-G under Matters from Committees/Agencies. He commented that the new agenda reporting process is providing an abundance of information for reporting back to the cities and their councils. There were no questions.

It was moved by Member Saab and seconded by Member Lewis to receive and file reports A-G. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Dutra mentioned that Prop. 6 failed and transportation funding is safe. He mentioned the Eco-Rapid Summit and the keynote speech by former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director

