

**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
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, CA 90723
February 6, 2019**

Second Vice President Maria Davila called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

PRESENT: Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Lisseth Flores, City of Bell Gardens
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Immediate Past President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Ricardo Lara, City of Maywood
Member Jennifer Perez, City of Norwalk
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
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 Martin Reyes, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis

ABSENT: President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
1st Vice President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Member Diane J. Martinez, City of Paramount
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; Sharon Weissman, Board Deputy, Office of Mayor Robert Garcia; Diana Tang, City of Long Beach Manager

of Governments Affairs; Steve Forster, Sr. Vice President, Infrastructure Engineers; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Nina Turner, Local/Regional Government Relations, Port of Long Beach; Nadine Lee, Interim Chief of Staff, Metro; Veronica Tam, Veronica Tam & Associates; Lilian De Loza Gutierrez, Community Relations Manager, SGV, Metro; Christopher Antonelli, Account Executive, Lee Andrews Group; Laura Cornejo, DEO, Metro; Pavel Flores, Bell Gardens; Mark Stowell, Director of Public Works, La Mirada; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Analyst Karen Heit; GCCOG Consultant Norm Emerson; GCCOG Sandra Mora; GCCOG Stephanie Cadena; GCCOG Genny Cisneros.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Elizabeth Alcantar.

There were no amendments or changes to the agenda.

There were no speakers for public comments.

Chair Davila asked the new members to introduce themselves beginning with Elizabeth from Cudahy. Marisela from Lynwood introduced herself next and expressed her pleasure at participating. Ricardo Lara from Maywood introduced himself and spoke about the importance of working on regional issues. Jesse Alvarado, Hawaiian Gardens also addressed the Board and spoke about bringing information back to his city council. Mayor Pro Tem Lisseth Flores from Bell Gardens also spoke about cooperating with the group and participating at the meetings.

Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Pfeffer talked about the MTA Open Streets Grant programs competitive grant program. She explained what these programs are about and the new emphasis on encouraging new multi-modal traveling. She mentioned that there are two open streets events in Gateway Cities; Long Beach and a joint event between Paramount and Bellflower. She also mentioned that Planning Directors and Public Works Directors would all get the committee meeting notifications to make sure they are aware of these events. She talked about the League of Cities LA County meeting not having a quorum, missing the quorum by two members. She then went on to discuss the SCAG Sacramento delegation and that she would attend on behalf of the COG.

She mentioned that she is trying to set up meetings with all of our state and federal elected representatives. She then introduced Genny Cisneros in her new role as Administrative Director. Genny addressed the Board. She mentioned the 20 Board presidents that she has worked with and that she is here to assist with moving the COG forward into new projects and the next decade.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes - It was moved by Member Lima and seconded by Member Cassidy to receive and file minutes. The motion was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee.

Chair Davila called to have the consent calendar approved, it was moved by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Pineda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Davila introduced Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer for the SCAQMD. Nastri clarified that AQMD is NOT looking for a sales tax, but is seeking authorization to float a future sales tax measure. Nastri discussed the nonattainment status in the South Coast basin as well as the CO2 emissions. He discussed the nonattainment based on mobile sources; trucks, planes and sea-going vessels. He mentioned that the Feds and the State are the regulators for mobile sources. He stated that he was pleased to report that the USEPA is working on a regulation for heavy duty trucks.

Nastri indicated that for the first time the District can identify how to best achieve attainment through the deployment of heavy-duty vehicles and quantified the cost at \$1 billion a year. He went on to explain the potential for the redirection of federal money to apply to air quality, similar to the superfund program for waste sites. He indicated that more people are impacted by negative air quality impacts than Superfund issues. He mentioned a national container fee (as opposed to local) that could be applied nationwide. He mentioned the possibility of a value added tax for air travel to apply to air quality mitigation. There are 2021-2028 deadlines that cannot be met without an extreme program. He went to talk about AB2766 funds and how they address air quality. He talked about AB617 which requires looking at air quality issues at the local level and the deployment of mobile source clean technology.

Nastri went back to address AQMD trying to obtain legislative authority to float a sales tax. He mentioned that the district has not yet found an author but is hoping to find one by the deadline of February 22. He mentioned he grew up in Carson and has seen what is possible with air quality improvements. He mentioned going to Shenzhen China and seeing California technology applied and expanded.

A question was asked about the mechanism for funding distribution, which would be part of an actual sales tax ordinance. Mr. Nastri distanced the AQMD from efforts by Denny Zane and stated that funding directions was premature. Ray Dunton asked a question about how long the AQMD has been around, Nastri replied since 1956. Dunton asked about funding from fines and Nastri indicated that fines do support the agency but he's trying to get away from that. Dunton asked for the list of community groups that are supporting tax authority. Dunton mentioned that the sales tax cap is getting close and cities should be aware that we are approaching that cap for many cities. Dunton mentioned that the sales tax request was changed to voting district authority at the request of the legislature and a follow-on letter was sent out to clarify that position.

Jhonny Pineda stated that it is really important for cities to look at the sales tax cap. He said cities need to get out ahead of the county and the state if they need local sales tax. A question was made that sales taxes don't always get distributed equally. From GCCOG experience we have historically not gotten our fair share. Nastri mentioned that a lot of money would be spent in the Inland Empire but an investment in Gateway Cities would

benefit the IE. A question was asked about how do we ensure communities of color actually receive the benefit. Nastri stated that he would send the links to the Air Quality Management Plan and the localization of funding under AB617 and that this model helps reduce the pollutants. Brent Tercero stated that Pico Rivera has a sales tax limit of 10% and all of the taxes are important but the issue is keeping the sales tax locally as opposed to having a regional agency spending it on the local agencies. He said the friction between regional and local is real and perhaps affected communities should be contacted individually. Member Rebollo from City of Commerce had to fight to be at the table for AB617 – despite the impact of logistics on Commerce, she stressed equity. Nastri said the funding is insufficient to address the problem and that the Governor had proposed to reduce the money. Nastri feels the money needs to be increased. AQMD is stretched and the idea of adding two additional communities is daunting. Staff will be in Sacramento on Friday to fight for funding. Herlinda Chico addressed the enforcement component and questioned the collection of fines and whether they are collected. Nastri answered that staff had better be collecting fines. He indicated that the AQMD Board had changed the way fines are used, they stay within the communities where they are generated. He cited the Torrance refinery explosion and the use of funds for a warning system and school filters that were funded. She asked about the monitoring systems and warning systems. Torrance is monitoring poisonous gases associated with processing leaks and in Paramount the monitoring systems are to monitor clean up not a dangerous circumstance. They need to move the monitors to where they are needed – like wild fires. Only so much money to pay for inspections and compliance.

It was moved by Member Lima and seconded by Member Pineda to receive and file report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Davila introduced Nadine Lee, LACMTA Interim Chief of Staff, to do a presentation on the 28x28 initiative now called Reimagining LA County. She reviewed the MTA Board requesting that staff develop a white paper to address the financing of 28x28 to fund the \$26 billion to move the initiative forward and that it was all a request from the MTA Board. Now called Reimagining LA County it goes beyond 28x28. New purpose, improved health, air quality impacts and urges better mobility and equity along with other goals.

She reviewed the MTA staff recommendation:

- State of Good Repair
- The Next-Gen Bus Study and Changes
- Honor Debt Commitments
- Fund needed operations improvements (communications, rail ops).
- Maintain commitment to convert buses to electric by 2030 (five years ahead of requirements).
- Creation of a White House task force to prepare for the 2028 Olympics

She reviewed three recommended classes of strategies:

- Standard tool-kit (common-sense items)
- The big “Nos”
- Transformational initiatives – could generate substantial revenues.

Standard tool-kit includes: enhancing revenue, state/federal funding, toll revenue. Multi-year Sub-regional Program (Measure M), Local Return Funding (LRF). Public/Private/Partnerships, and value capture. She talked specifically about utilizing LRF and MSP to reinvest into regional projects, this is very controversial. She also addressed the redirection and use of state and federal funds.

No’s – (strategies the staff does not recommend) – change debt policy – should always consider debt, but the problem is debt reduces future revenues, robs the future, possibly delaying future projects. Increasing fares is a possibility but not for the purpose of accelerating projects.

Transformational Initiatives – congestion pricing which currently exists only through the Express Lanes. She reviewed cordon, VMT and corridor congestion pricing, and gave explanations and examples of each. MTA staff recommend a feasibility study to examine the deployment of each of these types of congestion pricing. Levying fees on shared services, Uber, Lyft, scooters, regain funding from companies that use the public investment. Timeline and dates no longer applicable per Board direction.

She then reviewed the two Board Motions starting with the Butts Motion asking questions about the Congestion Pricing Pilot. Butts asked for benchmarks. “Sacred items” subject to change. The Director Solis Motion primarily addressed equity, and the potential impacts on underprivileged populations who drive and can’t afford these fees.

Dunton asked about the gap between the available funding and the \$26.1 billion need. Lee replied that there is an issue with that. Brent Tercero asked about the application of Express Lanes on all highways or just certain highways. Lee brought up cordon pricing and that the boundaries might be applied. She explained VMT. Director Pfeffer talked about the timing of MTA Board actions and that the Gateway Cities COG Board would next meet after the MTA Board had acted. She also mentioned that Reimagining LA would move 4 COG projects into implementation during the 2028 period. She then went on to cover Lisa Rapp’s comments from the Transportation Committee including that Local Return Funding are promises as much as the projects are within Measure M. She went on to cover the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and how they voted. PAC came up with the 5 consensus points:

1. Decouple Congestion pricing from 28x28,
2. Focus investment on equity, mobility options.
3. Consider transit improvements in Next-Gen,
4. Clarify how would 28x28 replace or supplant the LRTP 5. LRF and MSP must remain intact.

It was moved by Member Lima and seconded by Member Dunton to receive and file

report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Davila introduced Laura Cornejo to give a presentation about the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase II. She reviewed the five-year history of the project and the additional alternatives that were studied. The project has been scheduled for completion by 2035. The environmental document is over five years old. She reviewed the SR-60 alignment: 17,000 new riders. She then went over the Washington Boulevard alignment under Atlantic – ridership - 20,000 new riders. She went over the combined alternative. Measure R contained one alignment, Measure M to build out both. Phasing the alignments will be considered, how much of each can be built will be an environmental consideration.

Washington Blvd. alignment will look at Atlantic tunnel and Atlantic/Whittier station. Under Measure M, \$6 billion by 2035. The other alignment will be 2053 when the next cycle of funding will be available.

Scoping meetings will be held during the summer, letters sent out to City Managers and cities to get data. Commerce could have a stop at the Citadel.

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Pineda to receive and file report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item was requesting committee members for the COG retreat planning, the names were read out. The date of the conference was set June 20, 21, & 22 in Avalon.

It was moved by Member Dunton and seconded by Member Tercero to approve the ad-hoc committee and to receive and file report. The motion was approved unanimously

Chair Davila stated that the reports from committees were included in the package and called Sharon Weissman to give the MTA report from the MTA Board meeting. Sharon emphasized that the Reimagine was to return to the Board. She mentioned the Artesia public meeting for WSAB. Weissman reported on the Mayor Garcia sponsored cleanliness initiative along the ROW as well as on the buses and trains. She went on to discuss the station improvements along the Blue Line during the shutdown period. Garcia is working on the end to end local bus which runs all day.

Davila mentioned that Item G was distributed at each place.

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

Davila also called for a motion to receive and file reports A-H under reports Committees/Agencies. It was moved by Member Tercero and seconded by Member Lima to received and file reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

She proceeded to Matters from Board of Directors.

She discussed the Executive Director's performance evaluation that had been distributed to Board leadership and one City Manager representative. Results will be reported out when received.

League positions were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.