

**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 Boulevard
Paramount, California
March 4, 2015**

President Tercero called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: President Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Second Vice President Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Immediate Past President Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Cinde Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Isaac Galvan, City of Compton
Member Jack Guerrero, City of Cudahy
Member Sean Ashton, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Tim Spohn, City of Industry
Member Andrew Sarega, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Leonard Shryock, City of Norwalk
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Jay Sarno, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Doug Drummond, Port of Long Beach

ABSENT: First Vice President Rosa E. Perez, City of Huntington Park
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Al Austin, City of Long Beach
Member Oscar Magana, City of Maywood
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Member Danielle Valentino, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Cerritos Mayor Pro Tem Carol Chen; Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Compton City Manager Johnny Ford; Bell Gardens Assistant City Manager John Oropeza; Bell Gardens Public Works Director Chau Vu; La Mirada Director of Public Works Mark Stowell; Artesia Administrative Analyst Andrew Perry; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Stan Miles, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Colleen Murphy, Director, PATH Partners; Tara Cannon, Special Projects Coordinator, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Michael Kodama, Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit; Oscar Abarca, Chief Executive Officer, Top Shelf Environmental Consulting; Anna Lisa Abarca, Project Manager, Top Shelf Environmental Consulting; Andres Molina, Government Relations Representative, Parsons Brinckerhoff; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson; GCCOG Consultant Engineer and I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Sarega.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no matters from staff.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Lima, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Oscar Abarca, Chief Executive Officer, Top Shelf Environmental Consulting, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the South Coast Air Quality Management District's "Replace Your Ride" Program. He explained that the program, funded through CARB Cap and Trade funds, provides incentive vouchers for individuals to use towards the down payment on an advanced technology vehicle or for use of public transportation or car sharing. Incentives range from \$2,500 to \$4,500, depending on income and type of vehicle purchased, and requires scrapping of an older model, higher emitting vehicle. Mr. Abarca said the incentives could be as high as \$9,500 for participants residing in disadvantaged communities who purchase an advanced technology vehicle.

President Tercero asked that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation be sent to all of the COG cities.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Lima, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report recommending approval of an implementation agreement for the Artesia Boulevard Corridor Study. He said staff had met with staff from the cities of Compton, Long Beach, Bellflower, Cerritos, and Artesia, and the County of Los Angeles, who agreed to proceed with the development of a plan, incorporating the “complete streets’ concept, that would put the corridor in line for construction funding. He said this would be the first of a series of major arterial studies in the Gateway Cities subregion.

Member Sarega asked what the limits of the study would be. The Executive Director responded that the study would cover the entire length of Artesia Boulevard in the Gateway Cities from Central Avenue on the west to Valley View Avenue on the east.

Member Newcomer asked that staff come back with a plan on how to prioritize the arterials to be studied.

It was moved by Member Barrows, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the Artesia Boulevard Corridor Study Implementation Agreement. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director presented a report recommending approval of an agreement with Golden Shovel to revise the COG website, incorporating the Economic Development Program and the Zoom Prospector program. He said the Economic Development Working Group and City Managers Steering Committee had reviewed the proposal from Golden Shovel and recommended approval.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Drummond, to approve the agreement with Golden Shovel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said another \$30 million from the recently approved State Water Bond was available for grants from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for open space projects.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. She said the early action projects are moving forward on the sound walls and the design services for the Shoemaker Bridge.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He reported that there is currently major activity regarding the feasibility study on the I-605/I-405 interchange. He said procurement activities are moving forward on the EIR for the I-605/I-5 interchange.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

Colleen Murphy, PATH Partners, presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. She thanked everyone for their participation in the recent homeless count, saying there was almost 100% participation from cities. She said this enabled

them to do above and beyond what other areas have done thanks to the high level of participation. She said they were able to identify 300 homeless people in seventeen census tracts. Ms. Murphy said they will be releasing information on the Veterans Administration's initiative to end veteran homelessness.

It was moved by Second Vice President Saleh, Member Dunton, to receive and file the committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She said there would a groundbreaking tomorrow on the I-5/Florence Avenue segment, the most northerly segment of the I-5 improvement project.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

Michael Kodama presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. He congratulated the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, and Downey, who had received Transit Oriented Development awards. He said he is expecting the final results of the technical analysis study this summer.

Stan Miles presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He announced three upcoming events: a Cesar Chavez Day event to be held on March 28th at USC; a May 5th meeting to be held at Bristow Park in the City of Commerce; and the next meeting of the SCAQMD Board of Directors scheduled for March 6th in the City of Compton.

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. He reported that the Service Sector Council would be requesting a reduction in the size of the Council from nine members to seven because of its difficulty in achieving a quorum for meetings. He said the Council is preparing a letter to formalize the request. Member Daniels confirmed the difficulty in achieving a quorum.

Tara Cannon presented a report from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. She said the charter high school is up and operating and many spots are open for students from 18 to 25 years of age. She reported that the recycling program is doing well and now includes oil recycling. She said the Conservancy can come out and pick up old tires for recycling. She said the Conservancy is participating in the Energy Upgrade California program.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Lima, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the agency reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Hurtado congratulated those Board members who had been re-elected to their city councils. He said it was a shame that term limits mean we lose the services of people such as Member Barrows. Member Hurtado said he would like a presentation

on how cities can deal with road repairs in light of the reduction in gas tax revenues. He said he would like to hear about the impact of electric vehicles. Immediate Past President Lima said the State is working on that issue and that there are plans for a special tax on hybrid vehicles. President Tercero referred this issue to the Transportation Committee.

Member Barrows thanked everybody for the opportunity to work together. He said the COG has been one organization that truly benefits our cities, and he is pleased to have been part of it.

Member Hurtado said he would also like to thank Member Aguilar, who is retiring from the Commerce City Council. He said he agreed with Member Barrows that this COG is the best of all.

Member Alatorre thanked Members Barrows and Aguilar. He said Member Barrows had been a mentor to him and he wants to continue moving forward.

President Tercero thanked Members Barrows and Aguilar for their service.

President Tercero reported that he had attended a meeting of the San Gabriel Mountains Collaborative, which is meeting on the National Monument Plan for the mountains. He said Gateway Cities has one seat out of forty-five. He said that we and the San Gabriel Valley COG are advocating for more city seats on the Collaborative. He said he would forward the goals and objectives for the staff to send out.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:15 p.m.