

**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
July 2, 2018**

President Pineda called the meeting to order at 6:04.

PRESENT: President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
First Vice President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada
Member Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Vanessa Delgado, City of Montebello
Member Jennifer Perez, City of Norwalk
Member Diane J. Martinez, City of Paramount
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
Member Maria Davila, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn

ABSENT: Immediate Past President Al Austin, City of Long Beach
Member Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Joaquin Lanuza, City of Maywood
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, Port of Long Beach (ex officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Sharon Weissman, Board Deputy, Office of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia; Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Elizabeth Heger, Deputy Chief Program Officer, PATH; Julia Emerson, Public Affairs Manager, So. Cal Gas; Daniel Wall, Director of Public Affairs, City of Vernon; Chau Vu, Public Works Director, City of Bell Gardens; Ana Perez, 32nd Senate District; Andres Molina, Community Relations Manager, Metro; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

Under Matters from Staff, the COG Executive Director thanked and recognized Jack Joseph for his many years of service as Deputy Executive Director of the COG, and in other Gateway Cities. The COG Director mentioned that she had presented on SB 1 at a forum hosted by the SELA Collaborative in Bell on June 29th and attended an informational session on funding available to disadvantaged communities from the settlement with VW over misreporting of vehicle emissions. Finally, the COG Director shared a letter from Wally Shidler, thanking the Board for reappointing him to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council.

The Consent Calendar was approved unanimously, with the exception of minutes for the June 6, 2018 meeting, which will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Robert Calix, Los Angeles County Metro, presented an update on the Metro NextGen Bus Study. The agency is conducting a comprehensive review of its bus service for the first time in 25 years, and presented survey results as well as information on the methodology for the study.

First Vice President Dutra commented that the agency should focus immediately on the basics of providing safe, clean service so as to address the decline in ridership.

Member Wilson asked if no changes would be made to the bus system during the course of the study. Mr. Calix responded that regular changes every six months would continue to be made.

Member Alatorre asked whether Blue Line security has improved since the switch to policing by three agencies (City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach). Mr. Calix did not have an answer readily available.

Executive Director Pfeffer presented the proposed 2018-2019 COG Budget. She said it looked similar to last year's budget, and that ongoing work with the Board to identify

organizational goals would be reflected in future budgets. She observed that final information on the homelessness program budget was received as the budget was going to print. Member Wilson requested that the budget be brought back with the corrected figure as needed. The proposed budget showed a positive balance (revenues less expenditures) of over \$180,000 for the year, taking into account the 5% increase in dues approved by the Board in May 2018. It was moved by 1st Vice President Dutra and seconded by Member Davila to approve the proposed budget; all Members voted in favor except one who was opposed.

Executive Director Pfeffer informed the Board that State Assembly Speaker Rendon had secured a \$50,000 budget earmark for the COG to perform a Housing Strategy Assessment. The funds will be used to retain a consultant team to develop data on current housing compliance in the Gateway Cities, and to develop a strategy for advocating for favorable housing policies for the region.

Executive Director Pfeffer gave a brief report on the structure and outcomes of the COG's conference and retreat held June 15 and 16 in Avalon. It was moved by President Pineda and seconded by Member Sharif, to direct the staff to organize an annual COG conference and retreat of two nights' duration. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sharon Weissman, Metro Board Deputy for Member Garcia, gave an oral report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the Metro Board had opposed SB 1912, relating to PERS requirements for joint powers authorities, and AB 327, a bill that required municipal transit operators to purchase the cleanest vehicles but conflicted with other regulations. She noted that the Metro Board had approved a Transit-Oriented Communities, or TOC, policy allowing for local return funds to be used for such purposes as community engagement, transit pass discounts, affordable housing, and small-business preservation, among others. She said that the issue of changes in Green Line operations would return to the Board in September. She said that contracts were awarded for evaluation of the two potential northern alignments of the West Santa Ana Branch and for related additional community outreach.

Kekoa Anderson, COG Transportation Engineer, reported that the July 9th meeting of the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC) was rescheduled. He is collaborating with the Gateway Water Management Authority to identify and tee up projects such as a concept proposal for the river path between Long Beach and Vernon that could be eligible for funding under one of several RMC grant programs, including Round 2 of Proposition 1 funding, and Proposition 68 funding (providing about \$70 million). He noted that in Round 1 of Proposition 1, Gateway Cities were awarded a total of \$13 million. He is also identifying projects that connect the 710 and 605 corridor projects with potential funding under Measures R and M. He will make a more detailed presentation to the Board in August.

Kekoa Anderson, COG Transportation Engineer, reported that with selection of the I-710 Locally Preferred Alternative, it is now possible to move forward with compatible projects.

He said that the project team is meeting with cities to discuss their comments on the EIR. The next step is to develop an Initial Stage Program, including such projects as soundwalls and aesthetics, some of which are close to bidding. He observed that RMC/LA River funding can be used to support some of these projects, such as open space, bridges, local city projects, complete streets elements, urban greening, and active transportation. The TAC is discussing the cities' top-5 priority projects for funding.

Kekoa Anderson reported that similar opportunities for joint funding are available along the I-605/91/405 corridor. He said that the technical studies for the environmental document for the I605 are being distributed and that the environmental process is moving faster than the I-710 towards circulation of a draft EIR. An Aesthetics Committee has met three times to determine an aesthetic theme for the corridor and will meet again on July 11th. It will determine how the freeway is seen in the community, especially at arterial undercrossings. The TAC met to discuss top-5 priority funding for second-decade Measure R funding.

First Vice President Dutra observed that Caltrans permitting can be a problem and asked if any streamlining were available. Sacramento is working directly with the Aesthetics Committee to get early buy-in; this approach worked well on the I-710 corridor.

Elizabeth Heger of PATH reported that the overall funding for the Homelessness Program is reduced, but that PATH is able to supplement funding directly to the Local Coordinating Areas with Measure H funds to allow them to continue providing services. She said PATH continues to advocate for funding to come to the Gateway Cities COG region.

It was moved by President Pineda, and seconded by Member Dunton, to receive and file the preceding reports.

Kristine Guerrero, League of Cities, reported that the "Tax Fairness and Accountability Act," which the COG previously opposed, was pulled from the ballot by its sponsors in favor of compromise legislation, AB 1838, which would prohibit adoption of soda taxes by local jurisdictions, including by charter cities. She said the November ballot would include 12 propositions and noted the League's support for Props 1 and 2, related to housing, and Prop 3, a water bond, as well as the League's opposition to Prop 6, which would repeal the gas tax in SB 1. She also noted that due to amendments, the League would remove its opposition to SB 1912, relating to PERS requirements for joint powers authorities.

Julia Brown, Los Angeles County Metro, mentioned that three updated scoping meetings would be held in July for the West Santa Ana Branch in late July, two in the Gateway Cities.

Ms. Brown, reported that the Gateway Service Council will meet next on July 12th in Huntington Park, and that Signal Hill Councilmember Laurie Woods had been elected Chair and Huntington Park Vice Mayor Karina Macias had been elected Vice Chair.

It was moved by 1st Vice President Dutra, and seconded by Member Davila, to receive and file the foregoing reports.

President Pineda nominated 1st Vice President Dutra to be COG President. Member Delgado seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations, and the vote was unanimous.

Member Davila nominated Member DuBois to be 1st Vice President. Member Solanki seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations, and the vote was unanimous.

1st Vice President Dutra nominated Member Davila to be 2nd Vice President. Member Davis seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations, and the vote was unanimous.

Ten cities were nominated to the Executive Committee. There being only eight city positions, a written ballot was distributed, and the following cities were elected to the Executive Committee:

- Artesia
- Avalon
- Bell
- Bellflower
- Bell Gardens
- La Mirada
- Norwalk
- Santa Fe Springs.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.