



Gateway Cities Council of Governments 2023 Legislative Agenda

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the two million residents of Southeast Los Angeles County. Targeted initiatives include transportation planning, affordable housing, improving air quality, economic development, and other community-enhancing activities.

Community-Enhancing Activities

All Levels of Government

- Lead and support legislative efforts to reverse the effects of inequitable policies, processes, and practices that disproportionately impact communities in the Gateway Cities area, including policies that advance:
 - Equitable workforce development and employment
 - Equitable technology funding, infrastructure, and access
 - Equitable creation of and access to high quality open spaces and places that encourage physical activity and wellness
 - Equitable revitalization of urban communities to promote economic opportunity and community prosperity as well as providing other benefits.
 - Equitable remediation of contaminated sites and enhancement of water quality (in partnership with the Gateway Water Management Authority)
 - A reasonable approach to sustainability, resilience, and environmental justice.

Transportation

All Levels of Government

- Seek the resources and support to expeditiously complete regional transportation projects that enhance mobility for all residents of the Gateway Cities.
- Seek resources for investment in a more efficient and less impactful goods movement system, along with the designation of the I-710 South Corridor as an implementation priority associated with the SB 671 (Gonzalez) program development process.
- Seek state legislative and budgetary support for implementation of programs and projects included in the COG I-710 Ad Hoc Committee final report, including community-based transit system improvements. Work with federal partners to access funds approved as part of the new federal “Inflation Reduction Act,” including but not limited to the “Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program.”
- Seek the targeting of funds supporting the implementation of ZEV heavy duty trucks and electric charging and fueling stations to underserved communities, including communities located along the I-710 South Corridor.
- Work with Metro on implementation of the Board adopted “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Five-Year implementation Plan” to access the maximum amount of new federal transportation funds recently authorized by Congress to support both subregional and regional projects.
- In partnership with Metro and the Eco-Rapid Transit JPA, advocate for state and federal funding, benefiting the construction of key Gateway Cities priority projects, including the West Santa Ana Branch rail line and Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase II. Seek the equitable distribution of state and regional resources for member jurisdictions to implement mobility improvements.

- Support federal and state legislative initiatives that will facilitate the allocation of transportation funding on a high-priority basis to underserved communities, e.g., “Justice40 Initiative.”
- Seek the augmentation of funding for the Transit Intercity Rail Corridor Program (TIRCP) and legislative language that directs CalSTA to accelerate the allocation of the next cycle of TIRCP grant funding.
- Support local mobility solutions that will positively impact seniors, people with disabilities, students, and any vulnerable groups.
- Support funding for arterial improvements that enhance safety for people using all modes of transportation.
- Support the inclusion of broadband infrastructure into all transportation projects.
- Support for continuing funding for the Metro Go Pass program for K-14 students.

Housing and Homelessness

All Levels of Government

- Support policies that reduce the barriers to housing production locally, and enable local jurisdictions to create and preserve permanent, interim, and emergency housing, fund services required for residents of new housing, and avoid displacement of existing populations.
- Support policies that encourage housing production and service provision in collaboration with faith-based and other community serving institutions.
- Advocate for funding to leverage and support local initiatives to fund affordable housing, such as an Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Support the equitable provision of resources to local jurisdictions for the reduction of homelessness, and for the support of programs that can prevent homelessness.
- Advocate for stigma reduction around homelessness while building stronger supports around mental illness education and outreach.

State/Regional

- Oppose policies that override local land use control.
- Support a more responsive governance and funding system for regional homeless support services, and the equitable provision of resources to local jurisdictions for the reduction of homelessness, and for the support of programs that can prevent homelessness.
- Advocate for Continuum of Care strategies that promote physical and mental health care support for homeless individuals in collaboration with LA County Department of Mental Health and Public Health.

Air Quality and Climate

All Levels of Government

- Seek investment and partnership in the development and deployment of zero-emission and clean-fuel vehicles, vehicle charging and fueling stations, including heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, and other cargo-moving equipment.
- Support policies that incorporate a workforce element as part of the development and deployment activities of zero emission and clean-fuels vehicles.
- Support climate legislation that recognizes the disproportionate impact of climate change on disadvantaged communities and communities of color in the Gateway Cities and prioritizes capacity building and other strategies to ensure climate related funding is accessible to the vulnerable communities in southeast Los Angeles that need it the most.
- Support the equitable and expeditious implementation of clean air plans that reduce and mitigate emissions from all sources in the Gateway Cities region.

- Support policies that provide funding to the Port of Long Beach to craft and implement environmental resilience strategies generating substantial and direct benefits to underserved communities along the I-710 South Corridor.

State/Regional

- Seek the equitable distribution of cap-and-trade funds and other state resources to the region's communities, including disadvantaged communities, to enable local climate action.

Economic Development

All Levels of Government

- Seek resources to enable collaboration among the subregion's stakeholders in initiatives that will create jobs and support local economic development.
- Support the building of broadband infrastructure to bridge the "digital divide" by assisting underserved populations to obtain good-paying jobs in the new economy as well as the opportunity to participate in workforce training and education.

State/Regional

- Seek a fair funding methodology for the revitalization of non-residential zoned properties into new affordable housing developments.
- Seek an equitable distribution of State funding for construction of middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure projects.
- Support the development of a Golden State Network undersea broadband cable to the City of Avalon.

Other Issues

Items not covered by this Agenda will be brought to the City Managers Steering Committee, followed by the COG Officers, for discussion and possible presentation to the COG Board.