

**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  
February 3, 2016**

President Saleh called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Ali Saleh, City of Bell  
First Vice President Al Austin, City of Long Beach  
Second Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia  
Member Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy, City of Avalon  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens  
Member George Ray, City of Cerritos  
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton  
Member Baru Sanchez, City of Cudahy  
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey  
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens  
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach  
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood  
Member Ricardo Villarreal, City of Maywood  
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello  
Member Leonard Shryock, City of Norwalk  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member Bob Archuleta, City of Pico Rivera  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, 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 Joseph Martinez, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis  
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach

**ABSENT:** Member Ivan Altamirano, City of Commerce  
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry  
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: KeAndra Dodds, Housing and Transportation Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Javier Hernandez, Supervisor's Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Elizabeth Alcantar, Staff Assistant, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Paramount Assistant City Manager Kevin Chun; Downey Director of Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Pico Rivera Associate Engineer Gladis Deras; Maryam Adhami, Government Relations, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Marybeth Vergara, Project Analyst, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager, Watershed Conservation Authority; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Kevin Gilhooly, Regional Affairs Officer, Meredith Berkson, Director, South County CES, PATH; Roderick Diaz, Director, Planning & Development, Metrolink; Lori Gay, President and CEO, Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles; Jesse Ibarra, Associate Vice President and Director of Business Development, Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles; Connie Turner, Government Affairs Representative, Southern California Edison Company; David Ford, Government Affairs Representative, Southern California Edison Company; Daisy Pizana, Regional Engagement Manager, Los Angeles River Corporation; Kellie Morris, Owner, Bike Ucation; Eric Bruins, Policy Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition; Fernando Cazares, Trust for Public Land; Caro Jauregui, Southern California Policy Manager, California Walks; Jim Meyer, Executive Director, Trails 4 All; Enrique Huerta, Envirometro; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Consultant Engineer and I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Hadjinian.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Danny Gamboa, Empact Communities, spoke in favor of allocating at least 10% of revenue from the proposed MTA sales tax measure to active transportation.

Steve Boyd, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, said he supported allocating 10% of the proposed MTA sales tax measure for active transportation.

Kevin Shin, Walk Bike Long Beach, spoke in favor of a 10% allocation of MTA sales tax revenues to active transportation.

Kellie Morris, Bike Ucation, said she supported 10% of proposed MTA sales tax revenues going to active transportation.

Caro Jauregui, California Walks, said he favored 10% of proposed MTA sales tax revenues going to active transportation.

Fernando Cazares, Trust for Public Land, said infrastructure is needed and that he supported 10% of the proposed sales tax measure's revenues being dedicated to active transportation.

Jessica Meaney, Investing in Place, asked the Board to consider safe routes to school and plan for them.

Eric Bruins, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, summarized what other COGs proposed allocations of the new sales tax measure are and said that 10% is the floor to make this region walkable and bikeable.

Jan Victor Andasan, Communities for Environmental Health and Justice, distributed a letter recommending 10% or \$400 million in proposed sales tax revenues be dedicated to active transportation.

Adam Anderson, Executive Director, Kingdom Causes, Long Beach, spoke in support of a 10% sales tax distribution for active transportation.

Daisy Pizana, Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation, said that at least 10% of the proposed sales tax revenues should be devoted to active transportation.

Belinda Faustinos, Envirometro, said she favored a line item in the proposed sales tax measure for active transportation.

Allan Crawford, Long Beach resident, said funding is needed for active transportation.

There were no matters from staff.

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

Connie Turner and David Ford, Government Affairs Representatives, Southern California Edison Company, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Edison Company's preparations for the expected El Nino weather event this winter. They highlighted that Edison has conducted a hazard analysis, is conducting frequent inspections of equipment and facilities, increasing tree trimming and brush clearance, and is clearing storm drains in and around substations and service centers. Mr. Ford said the recent winds demonstrated the importance of trimming trees and keeping vegetation away from power lines. Ms. Turner said the County Department of Public Works has been holding workshops on El Nino preparation and referred the Board to a fact sheet summarizing the steps that Edison is taking in advance of the El Nino event.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Newcomer, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Lori Gay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Los Angeles County, gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided an update on housing affordability in the Gateway Cities region. Because housing is expensive in the Gateway Cities, families with less than \$100,000 annual household income will be generally locked out of the housing market. She said federal programs that traditionally support housing have continued to shrink. However, she said, her organization can give assistance to low and moderate income families through financial education and counseling, affordable mortgage and home rehabilitation lending, and construction management services. Ms. Gay said NHS can help by leveraging city programs with NHS funds, joint venturing on local development projects, providing client intake services and loan servicing, and implementing neighborhood revitalization activities.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that the Board has been requested to nominate candidates to fill two vacancies for elected officials on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. He said the COG had received three applications from elected officials, but one of them, Signal Hill Vice Mayor Lori Woods, had withdrawn. He said it would be appropriate for the Board to approve the nominations of the two remaining applicants, Huntington Park Council Member Jhonny Pineda and Pico Rivera Mayor David Armenta.

It was moved by Member Marquez, seconded by Member Uranga, to forward to the MTA Board of Directors the nominations of Huntington Park Council Member Jhonny Pineda and Pico Rivera Mayor David Armenta to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that staff had received expressions of interest in serving on the Committee on Sustainability from elected officials, but that there are no current vacancies on the committee. He said staff is recommending that two positions for elected officials be added to the committee so that they may be filled by interested parties.

President Saleh asked if any Board members were interested in serving on the Committee on Sustainability. Member Sharif indicated that she would be willing to serve on the committee.

It was moved by Member Alatorre, seconded by Member Hurtado, to add two additional seats for elected officials on the Committee on Sustainability and to appoint member Sharif to the committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Newcomer, Chair of the Committee on Homelessness, gave a report on the recent Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury interim report on planning for the county's homeless population for the predicted El Nino event. He said the Grand Jury had asked cities to respond as to what preparations they are making to provide shelter and

services to the homeless. Member Newcomer referred the Board to a draft response prepared by the staff of the City of Downey which could serve as a model for those cities that choose to respond to the Grand Jury's report.

It was the consensus of the Board to distribute the draft response to the Grand Jury to the COG's member cities for their use in developing their own responses.

Member Newcomer reported on the response to the request for proposals to conduct a study to assess gaps and potential solutions for homeless service in the Gateway Cities region. He said two interested consultants had joined together to submit a proposal from GMA Consulting, whose principal is G. Michael Arnold, who previously served as the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. He has been joined in his proposal by Ted Knoll, recently retired Executive Director of Whittier First Day. Member Newcomer reported that the proposed cost of the study is \$48,500, with an estimated \$2,910 in expenses. He reminded the Board that the study would be funded by Supervisor Don Knabe. He said the recommendation of the Committee on Homelessness is to approve the proposal from GMA Consulting, subject to final approval by Supervisor Knabe.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Dunton, to approve the proposal from GMA Consulting, subject to final approval by Supervisor Knabe. The motion was approved unanimously.

Marybeth Vergara, Project Analyst for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, presented a report from the Conservation Committee. She said the Conservancy had received \$30 million from the state water bond and had approved 44 grant applications for further review. She said several cities within the Gateway Cities had submitted project grant applications, but that the applications totaled over \$50 million in requests. She said it is anticipated that projects recommended for funding would be presented to the Conservancy Board in March or May.

Ms. Vergara said the COG Board's nominations to the new Gateway Cities seat on the Conservancy had been received, but that there was still an option for the Board to submit additional nominations.

Member Marquez asked for clarification as to whether the City of Bell Gardens qualified as a city that "bordered" the Los Angeles River, making it eligible to have a resident nominated to the new seat on the RMC Board. Ms. Vergara responded that it was her understanding that a resident of Bell Gardens would be eligible to be nominated.

Kekoa Anderson reported that the Gateway Cities Greenway Project being undertaken by the Watershed Conservation Authority will include active transportation projects in its master plan. Mr. Anderson also reported that the first meeting of the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group would be held next week in the City of Lynwood.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Uranga, to receive and file the report from the Conservancy Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the Technical Advisory Committee had not met in January, but that the project development team had been meeting. He said the team is still trying to refine the geometrics at the north and south ends of the project.

It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member Uranga, to receive and file the report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the Technical Advisory Committee had met last week and had heard reports on the freeway interchange projects. He said the project study report (PSR) on the SR-91/I-710 interchange will focus on elements that go beyond the I-710 project and is currently underway. He said the I-605/I-5 interchange PSR project had finally had a kickoff meeting.

It was moved by Member Archuleta, seconded by Member Sziebl, to receive and file the report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She introduced Roderick Diaz, Director of Planning and Development for Metrolink, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of Metrolink services to the Gateway Cities region. He pointed out Metrolink stations that serve the Gateway Cities in Industry, Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs, and Commerce/Montebello. He referred the Board to charts that showed Metrolink's comparatively higher rate of fare box cost recovery and low operating subsidy per passenger mile. He explained that the weekday ridership on Metrolink lines that parallel the SR-60 and I-5 freeways takes a significant number of vehicles off the freeways during peak morning commute times. He said inclusion of funding for Metrolink as part of the proposed MTA sales tax measure would contribute to the measure's passage.

Yvette Kirrin presented an update report on the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) and distributed a graphical handout that summarized the chapters of the STP. She outlined the elements of the plan, including the freeway system, arterial streets system, transit, active transportation, goods movement, technology, and stormwater management.

Member DuBois reported that the Transportation Committee was forwarding the nomination of Sam Pena to fill the vacancy for a member of the public on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council.

It was moved by Member Newcomer, seconded by Member Daniels, to forward to the MTA Board of Directors the nomination of Sam Pena to fill the vacancy for a member of

the public on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Saleh left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. First Vice President Austin assumed the chair.

Member DuBois presented the recommendation from the Transportation Committee regarding the project prioritization in the potential MTA sales tax measure. She said the projected subregional allocation from the new tax would be an estimated \$4.1 billion over the forty year life of the tax, but Gateway Cities' priority projects are estimated to cost over \$10 billion. Because of this, the I-710 and I-5 projects cannot rely solely on the sales tax revenues, but require significant state and federal funding for these major freeway projects. She said the previous Board action was to give first priority in the new sales tax measure to complete the projects contained in Measure R. The Board also had elevated active transportation to the level of a major project initiative. However, she said designating a single mode as a high priority in the tax measure would lock revenues to that mode for the life of the tax measure, which may not be appropriate. Instead, she reported, the Transportation Committee had voted to recommend that the COG Board's recommendation be altered to include applying any subregional funds available after the major initiatives funding plans are established towards achieving the goals and projects of the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) without being mode specific.

Member DuBois said the second recommendation of the Transportation Committee is that the COG should continue to support the allocation of 25% of the non-capital side of the tax measure proceeds to local return. Under the tax measure the description for local return in the ordinance should include as eligible expenses: major street resurfacing, rehabilitation and reconstruction, pothole repair, left-turn signals, bikeways, pedestrian improvements, streetscapes, signal synchronization, storm water run-off and treatment, and transit.

Member DuBois said the Transportation Committee also supported an allocation of funding for Metrolink capital and operations, but a determination of the exact percentage allocated to Metrolink should be determined by a countywide working group.

After discussion among the Board members, it was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the recommendations of the Transportation Committee regarding the prioritization of expenditures in the potential MTA half cent sales tax measure.

First Vice President Austin asked for a show of hands from those in support of the motion and a show of hands from those opposed to the motion. First Vice President Austin announced that the motion had passed by a vote of 16 to 9.

Meredith Berkson, PATH, presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. She reported that PATH was awarded County Rapid Re-Housing funds to provide short

term rental subsidies to less vulnerable homeless population in southeast Los Angeles County. She said PATH is receiving funds for 41 individuals, and will be able to hire two full time employees: a case manager and an employment specialist.

It was moved by Member Sziebl, seconded by Member Shryock, to receive and file the report from the Committee on Homelessness. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Committee on Sustainability.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She said the I-5 JPA is working diligently to seek funding for the I-5 gap environmental impact report.

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

Kevin Gilhooly presented a report from SCAG. He said the public review period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy ended on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He said 800 comments had been received and that SCAG staff will be compiling them and presenting them in matrix form. He asked the Board members to save the date of May 5<sup>th</sup> for the annual SCAG General Assembly to be held in La Quinta.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Sharif, to receive and file the report from SCAG. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from Eco-Rapid Transit.

There was no report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Dave Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. He said a public hearing would be held tomorrow in Norwalk regarding the annual service changes. He said the East Side Gold Line Extension's Washington Blvd. alignment study is looking three alternative routes for the north-south connection to Washington Blvd.: a Garfield Avenue subway; along Atlantic Blvd., and along Ave.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Sharif, to receive and file the report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council.

Member Sziebl announced that the County Board of Supervisors would be receiving a plan on Tuesday that will be the most comprehensive plan yet on homelessness.

There were no matters from the President.