

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE GATEWAY CTITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITEE  
Chair - MTA Director, Long Beach Mayor - Robert Garcia**

Gateway Cities COG Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723  
April 4, 2018

The Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm, roll call was taken by self-introduction:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Robert Garcia – City of Long Beach, Fernando Dutra – City of Whittier, Al Austin – City of Long Beach, Maria Davila – City of South Gate, Jose Pulido – City Manager – City of Cudahy, Young-Gi Harabedian – Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, Debra Johnson – Long Beach Transit, Jeff Collier – City Manager – City of Whittier, Bill Pagett – City of Lakewood, Mohammad Mostahkami – City of Downey, Kevin Jackson – City of Long Beach,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sharon Weissman – Transportation Deputy, Nancy Pfeffer, Karen Heit - GCCOG staff, Nina Turner, Local/Regional Government Relations – Port of Long Beach, Tracy Beidelman – Manager, Government Relations – Long Beach Transit, Lance Grindle, Principal Engineer – LA County Dept. of Public Works, Julia Brown, Community Relations Manager – Metro, Laura Cornejo – Metro, Wally Shidler – Gateway Metro Service Council. Sergio Infanzon – Community Development Director, Huntington Park

There were no amendments to the Agenda, matters from staff, or public comment.

Mayor Garcia began by requesting that the Transportation Committee elect a Vice-Chair and nominated Mayor Maria Davila of South Gate. A vote was taken and Mayor Davila was confirmed as Vice-Chair. Mayor Garcia introduced the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit Light Rail Project (WSAB) and stressed its importance to the Gateway Citers sub-region. He then introduced Laura Cornejo from Metro to give a presentation regarding new alternatives for the northern alignment of the WSAB project.

Cornejo explained the schedule for the determination of which northern alignments would be carried through to the environmental analysis and documentation. She indicated that the decision on which alignments would be selected would occur in May. She went on to explain the project goals and discuss the project alignment starting with the City of Artesia. She then went on to the reasoning behind the development of the new northern alignments. She summarized the number of comments stressing that over four hundred came from the Little Tokyo community. She also discussed the Arts District and Industrial BIDs concerns about at-grade rail.

She summarized the reason for revisiting the northern alignments. She talked about the methodology for determining where people want to go. She then reviewed the new alignments. Mayor Garcia asked for clarification about the number of alignments that are being considered. She reviewed each alignment and possible profile in detail. There was

discussion concerning Alternative E which terminates on the West side of Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS). The potential station locations on Alameda and behind the Metropolitan Water District headquarters are a little further from the other trains (except for the subway) than some of the other alternatives. Questions were asked about distant and connectivity for disabled patrons were raised. Deborah Johnson asked about connectivity of alternative G to the Regional Connector.

Alternative H was discussed with the Arts/District Station. Mayor Garcia mentioned that the red/purple line connection does not currently exist nor is there funding. The station has been discussed as a “passenger retrofit”. He raised a concern about the WSAB project ending with the Arts District Station.

Mayor Garcia asked for additional technical questions, Mohammad Mostahkami raised questions about walking and travel times. Mostahkami asked for the model of passenger movement. Cornejo responded that the modeling work will be sent forward in May. Mostahkami summarized the WSAB/Eco-Rapid purpose and need. Gateway Cities COG Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer discussed the project findings and reviewed the issues outlined in the letter that had been drafted for Transportation Committee and COG Board consideration.

Karen Heit, COG Transportation Analyst, gave a presentation on the issues associated with non-LAUS termini citing the various reasons why they did not serve the WSAB communities or the Gateway Cities area. Young-Gi Harabedian, LA County District 4 Representative, emphasized that more alternatives presented – the longer the environmental process will take. She stated that Supvr. Hahn wants to see the information on all the alternatives and make the data on the alignments available. Mayor Garcia talked about the downtown Los Angeles (DTLA) interests trying to get alternatives G & H moving forward. Maria Davila, councilmember from South Gate, asked where were these DTLA interests before and why hadn't they reached out. Al Austin asked about the cost of each of the northern alignments and their costs. Deborah Johnson asked about connectivity to regional rail and possibly statewide rail. Bill Pagett indicated he supported eliminating all non-LAUS options. Mayor G moved to support the draft COG/Eco-Rapid JPA letter and move it forward to the COG Board.

Mayor Garcia gave the MTA report, starting with the I-710 Corridor project where the decision was made to recommend that Caltrans move forward with Alternative 5C. He went on to describe a Board Motion by Supervisor Solis and others that allows the project to move forward with safety and congestion relief elements before capacity enhancement projects are considered. This Motion was amended by Supervisor Hahn to add additional funds for the provision of additional Zero-Emission trucks.

Mayor Garcia went on to discuss the contract change for WSAB/Eco-Rapid Transit Corridor environmental document and the addition of new northern alignments. He indicated that the new northern alignments were required by CEQA and a response to community input in Los Angeles. He discussed the Transportation Forum that was held last February in the City of Long Beach. He announced that next forum would be held in

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South Gate courtesy of Mayor Davila of South Gate. He discussed the Next-Gen bus study and some initial findings about bus riders finding the bus rides superior better than rail. The reports were received and filed.

Karen Heit gave a report on the development of the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines and the creation of options that will allow the use of Local Return Funds for affordable housing and business retention. She indicated that the use of funds in this manner is optional and not a requirement and that the expansion of uses may benefit cities trying to plan and expand their affordable housing potential. She indicated that as long as this use was optional there wasn't a downside to cities as they still retain control over their Measure M Local Return Funds.

Young-Gi Harabedian announced an April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for MTA to present the northern alignment options to the WSAB cities and Gateway COG representatives. She indicated that Supervisor Hahn would chair this meeting and wanted as many of the Gateway Cities as possible to attend and voice their views on the WSAB/Eco-Rapid project.

The Meeting Adjourned at 5:15