

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CTITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Chair - MTA Director Diane DuBois
Gateway Cities COG Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723**

October 1, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: MTA Director Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane DuBois – MTA Director, Gene Daniels – Paramount, Mohammed Mostahkami – Downey, Dana Pynn – LBT, Bill Pagett – City of Paramount, Rosa E. Perez – Huntington Park, Mike Egan – Norwalk, Bruce Barrows – Cerritos, Jorge Rifa – Commerce,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Port of Long Beach Representative, Tom Modica – City of Long Beach, Brent Tercero – Pico River,

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Powers, Yvette Kirrin, Kekoa Anderson, Karen Heit – COG staff, David Hershenson – MTA. Wally Shidler – Gateway Cities Service Sector, Yvette Kirrin – I-5 JPA, Michael Kodama – Eco-Rapid Transit Executive Director, Norm Emerson – Emerson and Associates.

Consent calendar was approved.

Armineh Saint, Metro Project Manager, presented the Ridership Relief Program (RRP) and other Metro low-income fare subsidy programs. She went over the history of the RRP program and the fare subsidies derived from the 2006 fare increase. She explained how the program works including the income level of the program participants. She reviewed the eligibility requirement for the program and the values for the different aid levels. The program is run with coupons. Program participants cannot receive other discounts.

She discussed the two administrative entities that cover LA County. The program is administered through non-profits and she reviewed the criteria for participation. She reviewed the Board Motions made in July during the 2014 fare increase. She also went over all of the outreach efforts that MTA has done to get the word out to low income riders. Mohammad Mostahkami asked about the administrative subsidy for this service which is not broken out. An individual has to apply in person, there is no on-line access. One coupon per month is issued regardless of choice of fare media.

Karen Heit gave a presentation on the updater of the Metro Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) highlighting the scheduling of the potential new sales tax initiative and the revision of the LRTP. She explained how the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan project information and data would be used to identify

Gateway Cities' subregional transportation needs. There was discussion concerning how subregional needs would be met and discussion about storm water abatement and whether that should be included in the new measure. There was discussion about the idea of 25% Local Return that is under discussion within most subregions Countywide.

Eric Carlsen, Metro Project Manager, gave an overview of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase II (MGLEII) DEIR/DEIS. He reviewed the history of project and the meetings with the Gateway and San Gabriel Valley cities. He reviewed the Purpose and Need for the project and discussed how the MGLEII fits into the County wide Metrorail system as well as its position in the LRTP as a Measure R third decade project.

He reviewed the alignment alternatives and gave an overview of the history of the Alternatives Analysis – from 47 down to 2. The DEIR/DEIS was released for a 60 day comment period ending October 21, 2014. He discussed the purpose of the DEIR/DEIS and reviewed the Measure R project funding. He discussed the notion of project acceleration should additional sources of funding become available. He outlined the role of the Federal Transit Authority role and other responsible agencies; including the USEPA, USACOE. He discussed the role of the cities and outlined the four alternatives addressed in the environmental documents; the no-Build, TSM, and two Build opportunities. He showed examples of aerial structures and their utilization on the two candidate alignments. He went on to detail the Build alternatives, SR-60 and Washington Blvd. He included the ridership, speed and costs in the 2035 timeframe and dollars.

He reviewed impacts for the SR-60 alignment that would require mitigation in the Draft document. He then moved to the Washington Blvd, alignment, reviewing the alignment profile, ridership and costs. He went on to discuss both construction and permanent impacts.

He compared unavoidable adverse impacts for both alignments. He ran through the unavoidable impacts that are associated with the Washington Blvd. Alignment, Discussion followed, Jorge Rifa commented that the SR-60 is a commuter route and the Washington alignment was a true transit use, emphasizing the utility of Washington Blvd. over SR-60. Carlsen admitted that the SR-60 alignment relies on high park and ride utility - pulling riders from a 10-mile radius.

Karen Heit briefly presented the matter of House Resolution 5101 (Hahn). This Resolution would set-aside a portion of customs fees top return to the ports of entry for infrastructure improvement. The Committee voted to send the draft letter of support on to the COG Board for signature.

Karen Heit gave a review of the latest actions concerning the development of Cap and Trade Funding. She discussed the developing criteria for distribution of these funds through the Strategic Growth Council and through SCAG and other MPOs.

She also discussed the set-aside for disadvantaged communities. Mohammed Mostahkami wanted more information on the affordable housing component and the commitment to financing the California High Speed Rail Project. He mentioned that the MTA reported on the process for distributing fund.

Yvette Kirrin, I-5 Executive Director, reported on progress for the e I-5 construction and that agencies are still seeking funding for the continuance of the environmental work for the portion of the project for the I-605 to the I-710. Kirrin gave the report on the I-710 and the ongoing work on the revisions to the EIR. She also talked about working with various cities to review initial revised geometric drawings.

David Hershenson, Metro Gateway Service Sector Manager gave a brief presentation the Metro Blue Line rehabilitation work and the one-month closure of the Blue Line transit mall to avoid night-time work. He also reported on the implementation of the fare increase and the two-hour travel window.

Kekoa Anderson gave a status of the SR-91/I-605 and the various studies that are ongoing through the project adoption process.

He discussed the coordination with OCTA on their projects that impact both companies. He discussed the two projects that are soon to be under study with the MTA through the procurement process. He discussed the projects that are in the various stages of project implementation.

Michael Kodama, Eco-Rapid Transit Executive Director, gave an update on the progress being made with the technical refinement study underway for the West Santa Ana Branch/Eco-Rapid Transit Line.

Heit gave an update on the LOSSAN JPA, citing a glitch in the JPA language that forces all the participating agencies to readopt the JPA MOU. She also indicated that the transfer of responsibility for the Pacific Surfliner was slightly ahead of schedule.

The Committee reviewed the Communications and attached Board report and requested a letter of thanks be sent to Senator Ricardo Lara for the passage of SB 1204 which will benefit the development of zero emission technology.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.