

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street
Cerritos, California
April 6, 2005**

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Vice President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Board Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Board Member George Cole, City of Bell
Board Member Daniel Crespo, City of Bell Gardens
Board Member John Crawley, City of Cerritos
Board Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Board Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Board Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Board Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach
Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Board Member Samuel Pena, City of Maywood
Board Member Edward Vasquez, City of Montebello
Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Board Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Board Member David Armenta, City of Pico Rivera
Board Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Board Member William DeWitt, City of South Gate

ABSENT: Board Member Ralph Morrow, City of Avalon
Board Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower
Board Member Robert Fierro, City of Commerce
Board Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Board Member Leonard Chaidez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Board Member John Noguez, City of Huntington Park
Board Member, City of Lakewood
Board Member Bob Chotiner, City of La Mirada
Board Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Board Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Board Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; Long Beach Assistant City Manager Chris Shippey; Pico Rivera Assistant City Manager Debbie Lopez; Lakewood Director of Community Development Chuck Ebner; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Downey Deputy City Manager James, Makshanoff; Long Beach Traffic and Transportation Manager Sumire Gant; Bell

Special Projects Manager Raul Romero; Connie Sziebl, Field Representative for Supervisor Don Knabe; Luis Marquez, District Representative for Senator Alan Lowenthal; John Catoe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, LACMTA; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, LACMTA; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, LACMTA; Dan Nguyen, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, LACMTA; Raymond Maekawa, Metro Director of Planning, LACMTA; Wally Shidler, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council; Patrician Price, Public Affairs Representative, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Frank Osgood, Planner; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG Legal Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Transportation Advisor Don Camph; GCCOG Consultant John Barna; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Bayer led the pledge of allegiance.

President Wilson provided Words of Wisdom

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Patrician Price, South Coast AQMD, announced that SCAQMD and ABC Radio were co-sponsoring the first Clean Air Showcase, to be held at the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, on Sunday May 15 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Member Lowenthal requested that the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2005, be amended to reflect that her motion was to include the approved design for the I-710 freeway in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan update, not the 2007 update. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Colonna, to approve the consent calendar with the correction to the minutes of March 2, 2005, as requested by Member Lowenthal. The motion was approved unanimously.

John Catoe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, presented an overview of the proposed 2005-06 Budget of the LACMTA. He said the budget includes \$1.5 billion for transit, and reflects a 25% reduction in transit administration expenses, not including Proposition A funds earmarked for cities.

Mr. Catoe announced that the Orange Line dedicated bus transit corridor will open in the San Fernando Valley in October. He said that the required 60,000 annual service hours will come from other sectors throughout the county. In response to a question from President Wilson, Mr. Catoe said that the loss of service hours in other sectors would be offset by the fact that the larger buses being purchased by LACMTA will carry more passengers, but will save money by reducing the required number of operators.

He said the new buses are larger, but are the same weight as the current 40 foot buses and that there should be no change in the fuel economy.

With regard to the MTA Board Member's deputy position, Mr. Catoe said that the former Chief Executive Officer, Julian Burke, took the position that the deputy must be an MTA employee. He said that current Chief Executive Officer Roger Snoble feels that a person can be assigned to and stationed at the COG. However, this will need to be approved by the MTA Board of Directors.

Mr. Catoe said that the proposed budget will move the five service sector community relations positions back to the central office at MTA headquarters. He said this still has to be reviewed and approved by the Board. He said he will take direction from the COG that the preference of the COG is that the community relations personnel remain in the service sectors.

Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager Alex Clifford said that the 2004-05 budget for the service sector was originally \$87.5 million, and was then amended to \$92.7 million. He said the proposed 2005-06 budget increases that amount to \$105 million. Mr. Clifford said that service hours will be increased by 122,000 hours and services will not be cut back.

Member Lowenthal said that she was not happy with the response she received to her letter opposing the transfer of service hours from the Gateway Cities service sector to the San Fernando Valley Orange Line. She said she feels that the Gateway Cities sector is underserved. Mr. Catoe responded that he agrees and wishes they could provide more services. He said the bigger issue down the road is in terms of financing. He said the Metro Connections study has examined how to better coordinate transit routes and services with other providers.

It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to send a letter saying that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments wants the MTA to keep the community relations staff in the service sectors. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development reported that the City Managers Steering Committee had recommended that the COG participate in the establishment of an Integrated Regional Water Management Group for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding. She said that approximately \$380 million from Proposition 50 funds is expected to be available over two funding cycles for regional water management projects. It was moved by Member Vazquez, seconded by Member Crespo, to approve the memorandum of understanding to participate in the Integrated Water Management Group. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Pena, to approve an amendment to the contract with Jerry R. Wood, Consultant, for a SR-91/I-605 freeways

phase 1 needs assessment analysis. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the National Parks Service was directed by federal legislation to undertake a survey of the San Gabriel River Watershed to determine whether all or part of it should be included within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The study area extends down to the southern most boundary of the City of Santa Fe Springs. He said that the National Parks Service would be present at next month's Board of Directors meeting to present a status report and answer questions.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing said that cities need to pay close attention to this study. Member Carroll said that he had attended a meeting in Diamond Bar on this subject. He said that the National Parks Service personnel admitted that they had no money to pursue the expansion of the national park area. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

COG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood reported that there had been staff changes at the I-5 Joint Powers Authority, and that he was now the acting Executive Director and Engineer for the Authority. He said he would be acting in both capacities for the next six months. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Vazquez, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the I-710 project was in a period of transition from the major corridor study to the environmental phase. He said that a new memorandum of understanding to cover the environmental phase is in the process of being drafted. It was moved by Member Putnam, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the funds were in hand to initiate the SR-91/I-605 Needs Assessment Study. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson announced that there had been no meeting of the Transportation Committee that evening. He said that he was appointing Member Daniels as interim Chair of the Transportation Committee until the MTA Board seat vacated by former Member Proo is filled. He encouraged attendance at the MTA Southeast/Long Beach Sector Committee meeting so that a quorum would be achieved and a new MTA Board member could be nominated. He said the meeting would be held on Friday, April 15, at 9:00 a.m. at Bellflower City Hall.

There were no matters from SCAG Regional Council members.

There were no matters from SCAG policy committee members.

There were no additional matters from the President.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

The General Counsel announced that there was not a quorum at the meeting that evening to elect a Regional Council member from SCAG District 27 and that a new meeting would have to be scheduled.

It was moved by Member Putnam, seconded by Member Dobson, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.