

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street
Cerritos, California
August 3, 2005**

There not being a quorum of the full Board present, President Nordbak called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
First Vice President Samuel Pena, City of Maywood
Member John Crawley, City of Cerritos
Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs

ABSENT: Second Vice President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Immediate Past President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Edward Vazquez, City of Montebello
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate

ALSO PRESENT: Norwalk Councilmember Cheri Kelley; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; South Gate City Manager Gary Milliman; Lakewood Director of Community Development Charles Ebner; La Mirada Public Works Director Steve Forster; Bell Special Projects Manager Raul Romero; Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe; Luis Marquez, Field Representative for Senator Alan Lowenthal; Mike Hollon, Field Representative for Assemblyman Hector De La Torre; Kristine Guerrero, Regional Representative, League of California Cities; Patrician Price, Public Affairs Specialist, South Coast AQMD; Raymond Maekawa, Director of Planning, LACMTA; Michael Sieckert, Planning Manager, LACMTA; Alex Clifford, General Manager, LACMTA Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; David Hershensen, Community Relations Manager,

LACMTA Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; Dan Nguyen, LACMTA Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Luis H. Cetina, Senior Government Relations Manager, Metropolitan Water District; Allan Hose, I-710 Tier II Community Advisory Committee; Jerry Wood, Acting Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy, MTA Director Bonnie Lowenthal; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG General Counsel Richard Jones; Don Camph, GCCOG Transportation Advisor.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Bayer led the pledge of allegiance.

President Nordbak asked if the members wished to continue listing Words of Wisdom as a regular agenda item. Member Daniels recommended that that item be discontinued. There being no opposition, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee to discontinue listing Words of Wisdom as an agenda item.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no comments from the public.

It was moved by Member Stefenhagen, seconded by Member Colonna, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Immediate Past President Wilson arrived at the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

President Nordbak announced that California Deputy Secretary for Business, Transportation, and Housing John Barna had been delayed and that his presentation would take place later in the meeting when he arrives.

President Nordbak announced that the item regarding vacancies on the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Council would be carried over because three of the five candidates could not be present at the meeting. The Director of Program Development announced that the deadline for applications for the general public seats on the Sector Council had been extended to August 31.

Luis H. Cetina, Senior Government Relations Manager for the Metropolitan Water District, spoke regarding the draft EIS/EIR on the South Delta Improvement Program of the California Department of Water Resources. He said that environmental groups had held up the release of the EIS/EIR on the improvements package and urged that the Governor be requested to release the

EIS/EIR for public review. It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Daniels, to send a letter to the Governor requesting release of the South Delta Improvements EIS/EIR to the public. The motion was approved unanimously.

Patrician Price, Public Affairs Specialist for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), spoke regarding a proposed memorandum of understanding between the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and California railroads. She said that CARB had entered into a "secret" agreement with the BNSF and Union Pacific railroads that could undermine proposed legislation and undercut efforts to reduce railroad locomotive pollution. She said that the SCAQMD's position is for CARB to vacate this MOU. She said that CARB would be holding public consultation meetings on the MOU and that Senator Lowenthal would be attending the meeting on August 31 in the City of Commerce to oppose it. It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Putnam, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously. President Nordbak said that he did not believe the COG should take a position on this matter but that individual cities should testify at the meetings.

Member Colonna presented the report from the Conservancy Committee. He said that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board had voted to support SB 153, the California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2006, which would place a \$3.8 billion state bond on the 2006 ballot and encouraged support for SB 153. It was moved by First Vice President Pena, seconded by Member Colonna, to direct staff to prepare a resolution in support of SB 153. The motion was approved unanimously.

At this time Deputy Secretary for Business, Transportation, and Housing John Barna arrived at the meeting to report on state transportation projects. Mr. Barna said that the work on the I-710 Major Corridor Study was viewed by the state as a model for goods movement planning with its community based environmental mitigation planning.

He said that a first major initiative of the state regards two extreme air quality non-attainment areas: the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley. He said that these problems need to be addressed before infrastructure improvements there can proceed.

A second major initiative is Go California, which seeks long term reductions in congestion in severely impacted corridors, including I-710 and I-5. He said that he is hopeful that there will be annual federal appropriations for goods movement projects of national significance like I-710 and the Alameda Corridor East project. He said that that the COG needs to have a focused plan developed for the State to support in Washington.

Member Colonna left the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Board Member Fernando Pedroza arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Barna said that the State is working on putting together enough funding to support the MTA funding for the Carmenita Bridge project of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. He said that the State has been involved in the I-405 issue and that the State would like to be helpful to advance all of the region's priorities. He said the State does not want to choose between projects; they are not mutually exclusive.

Signal Hill City Manager asked about the Governor's position on container fees. Mr. Barna responded that he does not have a position yet.

President Nordbak asked what the State is looking at with regard to funding for grade separation projects. Mr. Barna responded that they are as important as interchanges; however, unfortunately they are just as expensive. Because of the traffic volumes, they don't compete as well for funding. Frankly, he said, we need to be pushed. There is not sufficient funding to get all of them done.

Member Lowenthal thanked Mr. Barna for coming to the meeting. The Executive Director said that the COG is lucky to have someone like Mr. Barna in Sacramento.

President Nordbak presented a cube to Mr. Barna in appreciation of his appearance before the Board and Executive Committee.

I-5 Joint Powers Authority Acting Executive Director presented a report from the I-5 JPA. He said that the Authority was due to start right of way acquisition for the Carmenita Bridge project. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to receive and file the report.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee. He said that the I-710 project had received a \$5.5 million earmark in the federal transportation reauthorization bill. He said that \$30 million was needed for the environmental impact report phase and \$5 million had been approved by the Port of Long Beach, contingent on the Port of Los Angeles contributing a similar amount. He said that the MTA had committed \$5 million for the effort and that an additional \$10 million was needed from Caltrans and SCAG. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Stefenhagen presented a status report on the SR 91/I-605 Needs Assessment Study. He said that the Technical Advisory Committee had met last month to develop suggestions to bring to the Corridor Committee. He said that the traffic modeling was almost complete. He said the next meeting of the Corridor Committee is scheduled for August 15 and that the study should be

completed by the end of September. It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Lowenthal presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She introduced Karen Heit, her new MTA Transportation Deputy. She said that First Vice President Pena and Norwalk Assistant Transportation Director Jaime Becerra would be reviewing the applications from members of the public for the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. Member Lowenthal reported that the Committee had heard a presentation on SB 760, and will bring the issue back next month for discussion. She said that MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager Alex Clifford had made a presentation on proposed bus service changes and that a public hearing would be held in Downey on August 11. She reported that Brad McAllester of the MTA had given the Committee an update on the proposed congestion mitigation fee, and that Jerry Wood has presented a status report on the I-5 project. It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from the SCAG Regional Council.

There were no reports from the SCAG policy committees.

President Nordbak made a presentation to Immediate Past President Wilson in appreciation for his service as President of the Board of Directors. Immediate Past President Wilson thanked the members present for allowing him to serve as President and said he looked forward to working with President Nordbak, First Vice President Pena, and the rest of the Board members.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from staff.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:54 p.m.