

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
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
December 5, 2007**

President Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Immediate Past President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Laura Lee, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Ramon Rodriguez, City of Lynwood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Gracie Gallegos-Smith, City of Pico Rivera
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Joe Vinatieri, City of Whittier

ABSENT: First Vice President Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Second Vice President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Oscar Hernandez, City of Bell
Member John Heckerman, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Jeff Siccama, City of Montebello
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Commerce Senior;

Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Sector; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Kerry Cartwright, Port of Los Angeles; Tony J. Morris, President, American Maglev Technology, Inc., Lori Gay, President and CEO, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services; Ester Cadavid, Vice President and Chief Development Officer, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Program Development Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry R. Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Immediate Past President Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Dobson, to accept the agenda as posted. The motion was approved unanimously.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Gurule, to approve the consent calendar as presented, with the exception of Item B, Approval of the Warrant Register. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member DuBois, to approve the Warrant Register for December 5, 2007. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tony J. Morris, President of American Maglev Technology, Inc., gave a presentation on Alternative Technology for Cargo Movement. Mr. Morris described a proposed four phase, grade separated maglev project to transport cargo containers from the ports along an elevated guideway system which would ultimately reach the high desert area. He said the project, which would cost in excess of an estimated \$4.4 billion, would ultimately leave a zero-emission carbon footprint for freight handling and transport.

Immediate Past President Nelson asked how the containers would be strapped on the cars. Mr. Morris said that they would utilize a twist lock system. Immediate Past President Nelson asked if it would be a dual track system with cars moving in both directions. Mr. Morris said that it would. Immediate Past President Nelson asked if the project would be wholly privately funded. Mr. Morris replied that it would be privately funded. Immediate Past President Nelson asked if the project would put truckers out of work. Mr. Morris said

that there would still be a need for truckers to make deliveries to locations in close proximity to the ports, but that it would relieve traffic pressure on I-710. Immediate Past President Nelson asked if the units would be built in southern California. Mr. Morris said that there would be an attempt to create a local authority.

Kerry Cartwright, Port of Los Angeles, said that he wanted to point out that there would still be truck trips to the ports if the proposed system were put in place. Mr. Morris said that the system would move a good share of the 80% of cargo containers that are bound for destinations outside of the areas near the ports.

Member Dunton asked how the containers are taken off the vehicles. Mr. Morris replied that the typical cranes that are currently used at the ports would be utilized. Member DuBois asked if this system could work in other locations than along the I-710 freeway. Mr. Morris said that the system could alternatively use the Union Pacific line or other rights of way. President Guerrero asked what would be the maintenance requirements of the track. Mr. Morris replied that the track itself would require very little maintenance because there are no motors or gear boxes. Immediate Past President Nelson asked if there is sufficient power in the grid for the project. Mr. Morris said that in the short term there is not, but for the long term it will need to be studied. Member Daniels said that he had heard Mr. Morris' presentation at SCAG and was very impressed, which is why he asked that he be invited to address the COG Board.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Dobson to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Lori Gay, President and CEO of Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, gave a presentation on Stemming the Tide of Foreclosures. Ms. Gay said that Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services began an aggressive focus on home ownership preservation in 2003 in the face of a growing foreclosure rate in the neighborhoods that they serve. She said that foreclosures in Los Angeles County through the third quarter of 2007 reached 3,627 and that the figures could be as high as 45,000 over the next twelve months. She highlighted foreclosures that have occurred in the cities of the Gateway Cities subregion over the first three quarters of the year and estimated that they would total over 1,500 by the end of December. She discussed the impacts on families, property values, and the local economy of such a high rate of foreclosures. She said that her organization offers solutions in the form of foreclosure prevention education and counseling, making people aware of affordable loan products, relocation assistance, and advocacy for statewide legislation to assist homeowners at risk. Ms. Gay said that President Bush would be encouraging loan modifications, such as extension of "teaser" rates, to avoid foreclosures. She said that one out of eighty-eight families statewide face potential foreclosure.

Member Daniels asked how we got into this sub-prime loan predicament in the first place. Ms. Gay responded that everyone contributed, including realtors, mortgage brokers, and the home purchasers themselves.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood, COG consultant engineer, presented a report on the Orange County/Los Angeles County Transportation Study. He said that the study on cross county transportation issues was about half way completed and that the outreach component was now beginning. He said that there would be a meeting on December 13th in Cerritos of elected officials from the border cities. He said that a questionnaire had been sent out to the border city staffs. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, reported that the draft Regional Transportation Plan would be before the SCAG Transportation Committee for approval the next day. He said that there would be opportunity for extensive public review and comment until February 18, 2008. Mr. Chidsey said that the State of the Region report would be released tomorrow, as well. It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director of the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority, presented a report on the I-5 project. She said that the I-5 JPA Board recently took two actions: 1) support the currently scoped project and that Caltrans and Metro try to figure out what the funding gap is for the Carmenita Rd. bridge; and 2) directed staff to look at options, including design/build, to construct the I-5 corridor. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He thanked the cities of Lakewood and La Mirada for their letters of support for the federal Maritime Emissions Control Act and said that the SCAQMD Board will be replacing 21 diesel trucks with 21 LNG trucks as a contribution to the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan. President Guerrero asked that Mr. Madsen present a report next month on the City of Vernon power plant. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alex Clifford, General Manager of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, presented a report on sector activities. He said that he wanted to respond to questions from last month's meeting. He showed a power point presentation on Metro bus funding levels. He said that he is looking at ways to minimize the impact on bus service by trimming \$10 million in bus service hours. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said the Board had met on November 26th. He said that a total of 233 grant applications had been received and that the Conservancy was now beginning to evaluate them according to Tier 1 criteria. He said that staff would be making funding recommendations to the Board at the meeting of January 28th. He said that the Conservancy had been successful in amending a grant that will allow it to hire a Director of Water Policy and to extend existing positions on the Conservancy staff. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that a Notice to Proceed would go out from the MTA by the end of the month to the consultant team on the EIR/EIS project. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Wilson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He reviewed with the Board the Major Corridor Study Guiding Principles that had been adopted by the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee and recommended that they be approved by the full Board. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to approve the SR-91/I-606/I-405 Major Corridor Study Guiding Principles. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the MTA had nominated I-110 and I-10 to the federal government as Congestion Management Demonstration projects. These projects would use a graduated system of tolls for single occupant vehicles to car pools for use of HOV lanes. She said that the Transportation Committee had voted to recommend approval of a letter of support for the Maritime Vessels Emissions Reduction Act of 2007 and a letter to the California Transportation Commission supporting Speaker Nunez's efforts to obtain a fair share percentage of funding for southern California from Proposition 1B proceeds. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to approve the letters recommended by the Transportation Committee and to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Hurtado announced that South Gate's 62nd annual Christmas Lane Parade would take place on Sunday.

President Guerrero announced that letters had been sent out to cities requesting

nominations to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council to fill the seat previously held by Councilmember Sam Pena.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Guerrero at 7:29 p.m.