

**MINUTES 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
February 1, 2012**

President Dunton called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

PRESENT: President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
First Vice President Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Second Vice President Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
Immediate Past President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Michael Ponce, City of Avalon
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Josue Barrios, City of Cudahy
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Cheri Kelley, City of Norwalk
Member Bob Archuleta, City of Pico Rivera
Member Joseph Serrano, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Member Angie Castro, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina

ABSENT: Member Ana Maria Quintana, City of Bell
Member Larry Mowles, City of La Mirada
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Ex Officio Member Christopher Lytle, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Judith Mitchell, Governing Board Member, SCAQMD; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfing, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce Deputy City Administrator Fernando Mendoza; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Sonia Southwell; Long Beach Director of Government/Strategic Affairs Tom Modica; Pico Rivera Director of Public Works Art Cervantes; South Gate Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershensen; I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; SCAG Public Affairs Officer Matt Horton; Barbara Levine, Senior Regional Manager for Gateway Cities, LAEDC; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Hurtado, seconded by member Lima, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Barbara Levine, Senior Regional Manager, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, presented a quarterly economic activity report for the Gateway Cities. She announced that the LAEDC would be holding its Annual Economic Forecast on February 15th. With regard to the State's action abolishing redevelopment agencies, she said that LAEDC has for a long time been a supporter of redevelopment and believes it was imprudent to eliminate it in the way it was done. She said the LAEDC supports Senator Padilla's legislation to extend the February 1st deadline for dissolution of the agencies.

Ms. Levine reported that they are seeing businesses slowly sustain and grow. She said more and more cities are being business friendly. She commended the cities of Commerce, La Mirada, and Whittier for being named finalists for "Most Business Friendly City". She said that businesses are more and more adding capital equipment; however, employment is not increasing as much as had been hoped. She said the information, tourism, and hospitality industries are leading the region's recovery.

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report recommending voluntary participation by cities in funding consultant support for Mary Ann Lutz, the municipal representative on the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. He said funding had previously been provided by the Los Angeles Division of the League of California Cities, but budget shortfalls had caused the League to discontinue its support. He estimated the total need to be \$30,000 annually, and if at least 60 cities within the two represented counties of Los Angeles and Ventura contributed \$500, the funding level would be reached. He said similar requests were being made to the other subregional COGs in the District. He recommended that a subcommittee of city managers from the various COGs meet to report back to the Board on the issues before the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

President Dunton asked how this voluntary assessment would be presented to the various city councils. Mr. Farfsing responded that a memorandum from the city managers would be provided to each city to present to its city council.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Barrows, to approve the COG's endorsement of a \$500 voluntary assessment to cities for consultant support for the municipal representative on the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager presented a recommendation from the City Managers Steering Committee that Pico Rivera City Manager Ronald Bates be appointed as COG Treasurer, replacing the recently retired Gerald M. Caton.

It was moved by First Vice President Daniels, seconded by Member Lima, to appoint Ronald Bates as COG Treasurer.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Immediate Past President Gil Hurtado presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He asked that I-710 Project Committee members see to it that their alternates attend Project Committee meetings if they are unable to attend. Jerry Wood reported that the Project Committee had heard technical reports, especially regarding improvements in air quality. He said the draft EIR is scheduled to be released in late March, with a 60-70 day review period. He said three official open houses will be held during the review period.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the Corridor Cities Committee would meet at the end of the month. He said the Committee would be studying the relationship of all of the regional transportation projects and how they affect city streets.

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the two freeway corridor reports.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the Committee voted to support the MOU among the High Speed Rail Authority, LOSSAN, and MTA to improve local passenger service and rail grade separations. She said Member Barrows was asked to make a motion at SCAG tomorrow that COGs be included in the MOU.

Member DuBois said the Transportation Committee recommended opposition to AB 1446 (Feuer) and AB 1444 (Feuer). She said AB 1446 would extend the period of years for Measure R, resulting in Measure R funds for subregional projects being pushed out into future years in order to fund projects in the immediate Los Angeles urban area. AB 1444 expedites environmental challenges to Measure R transit projects only. She said the bill ignores highway projects, and that the Transportation Committee recommended that the legislation be revised to include all Measure R projects.

It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Member Barrows, to oppose AB 1446 and AB 1444. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Regional Planning presented a comment letter on the SCAG Draft 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that had been approved by the Transportation Committee. She highlighted the areas of comment, including the financial plan, major highway projects, high-speed rail, the proposed express/HOT lane network, goods movement, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy. She said the plan for the proposed East-West Freight Corridor would phase in a restriction to 100% zero-emission vehicles, but that the letter requests that the implementation timeline should be the same as on the I-710 freight corridor through the Gateway Cities. She reported that the City of Pico Rivera had requested that, under the category of goods movement, the comment letter state that the COG's position on the proposed East-West Freight Corridor is that it should be confined to the freeway rights-of-way and not on the rail or other non-freeway rights-of-way.

Member Nordbak asked what defines a "zero-emission" vehicle, since even the current clean trucks are not zero-emission. Jerry Wood responded that staff believes zero-emission technology is feasible and that Siemens would be making a presentation on its zero-emission technology to the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee later this month.

Member Harris referred the Board to a memorandum he distributed from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas detailing the Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy that had been approved by the MTA Board of Directors.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Hurtado, seconded by First Vice President Daniels, to send the comment letter on the Draft RTP to SCAG, amended to include the request that the East-West Freight Corridor be confined to the freeway rights-of-way. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. He said staff had completed drafting the RFP for an implementation agency for the Homeless Action Plan, and that it had been sent to the County Executive Office for review. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

There was no report on the California High Speed Rail project.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said the Carmenita Road project will result in closures that will start on the following Monday. She said closure and detour maps are available on the I-5 project website. She said the Alondra Blvd. project had been awarded a construction contract. She said three more construction contracts would be awarded by the end of the year.

Ms. Kirrin reported that the California Transportation Commission was concerned that the right-of-way acquisition could not be completed by the end of the year and had threatened to remove the funds for that purpose. She said Congresswoman Grace Napolitano had contacted the CTC and did not believe that that would happen.

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report from the I-5 JPA.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

Matt Horton presented a report from SCAG. He said tomorrow SCAG would be hosting a second workshop on the Draft RTP immediately after the Regional Council meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said the OCTA Board had received the draft alternatives analysis. She said the ridership and utility of the line were looking very good. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

SCAQMD Governing Board Member Judith Mitchell presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. She referred the Board to her memorandum summarizing the items to be presented at the February 3rd meeting of the AQMD Board, highlighting the Executive Officer's goal to continue demonstration and deployment of a zero-emission cargo container movement system, the purchase of seven advanced technology vehicles for the AQMD's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Demonstration Program, and the report on AQMD staff's recent visit to Germany to see the catenary technology at the Siemens demonstration project. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said there would be a series of public hearings on proposed minor service changes, including one to be held in Huntington Park next week. He said the final EIR for the Regional Connector project was being released. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

There was no report from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach.

There was no report from the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from the President.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:10 p.m.