

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Chair – MTA Director Bonnie Lowenthal
Gateway Cities Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd. , Paramount
February 1, 2006**

Call to order and roll call. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lowenthal at 4:35 p.m. Roll call was taken by self introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Lowenthal, Gene Daniels, Bill Pagett, James Parker, Stan Carroll, Marina Sueiro, Elba Guerrero, Gary Milliman, Kerry Cartwright, Mohammed Mostahkami.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Knabe, Greg Nordback, Ken Farfsing.

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Powers, Gateway Cities COG Executive Director; Jack Joseph, Gateway Cities COG; Deborah Chankin, Gateway Cities COG; Karen Heit, Gateway Cities COG; David Hershenson, MTA; Michael Sieckert, MTA Gateway Cities Sector; Brynn Kernaghan, Long Beach Transit, Sharad Mulchand, MTA, Alex Clifford, MTA, Wally Shidler, MTA, Jerry Wood, Gateway Cities COG, Abdoullah Ansari, Long Beach Public Works, Laura Cornejo, Montebello Bus Lines.

A quorum was reached and the Minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting were approved.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy to Director Lowenthal gave an overview of the three infrastructure bond initiatives going through the adoption process. The situation with these issues is volatile and changing weekly. Some of the more important issues are: the north/south split in funding that traditionally has favored northern California, a high local match requirement; project selection by the California Transportation Commission as opposed to the local programming entities (MTA, SCAG); and the absence of defined formulas to be used to distribute goods movement funding. There was discussion of the initiatives and the recommendations listed in the staff report. Kerry Cartwright suggested that previously awarded federal and local funds be counted as local match.

Suggested additions to the COG's recommendation included:

- Referencing the Statewide Goods Movement Action Plan for project identification.
- Allow for inclusion of previously awarded federal and local funds as match for project included in the bond issues.

- Add the words restore to recommendation on Prop. 42 funds.
- Add “Include funding for buses and bus facilities as they are an integral part of mass transit, congestion relief and improved air quality”.
- Include a transit security component.

The Transportation Committee moved to forward the recommendations to the Board.

Alex Clifford, Gateway Sector General Manager reported on Line 577x an express line from El Monte to Cal State Long Beach. He said the Line is well received. CSULB is doing a payroll stuffer to employees to encourage ridership. He also discussed changes to Line 258, the Garfield gap, that have been initiated to access Paramount City Hall. The Gateway Sector Rapid Bus Line 760 implementation has been delayed until December as some of the Cities require substantial signal work.

Karen Heit gave a quick update on the Local Return Guideline revision process. The Streets and Freeways Committee as well as the Technical Advisory Committee voted to revise Prop. C Local Return Guidelines to allow for the installation of signals that benefit transit. The Guideline Revision should be on the March MTA Board agenda.

Richard Powers, Gateway COG Executive Director, gave the I-5 JPA report. The City of Commerce finished it's review of the I-5/710 Mini-study, Caltrans has approved the freeway geometrics and Carmenita right of way acquisition is due to begin.

Mr. Powers continued to provide an update on the I-710 Major Corridor effort. The funding plan is nearly complete, the near-term air quality strategy is partially drafted, the City of Commerce has finished review of the Mini-study, East LA is still reviewing the report, and the Governance structure is completed.

Mr. Powers last report was on the status of the SR-91/I-605 Needs Assessment; the next step will be looking for funding. Mayor Stefenhagen of Norwalk is leading the effort to obtain the \$2-3 million required for the next project phase.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.