

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Chair – MTA Director Diane DuBois
Gateway Cities Office, 16401 Paramount Blvd. , Paramount
August 5, 2009**

Call to order and roll call. The meeting was called to order by Gordon Stefenhagen, Gateway Cities COG President at 4:36 p.m. Roll call was taken by self introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Stan Carroll – La Habra Heights, Gordon Stefenhagen – Norwalk, Ray Harris – Supervisor Knabe, Ken Farfsing – Signal Hill, Bill Pagett - Paramount, Mohammed Mostahkami – South Gate, Frank Gurule - Cudahy

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Diane DuBois – Lakewood, Gil Hurtado – South Gate, Gene Daniels – Paramount, Fred Latham – Santa Fe Springs, Eric Shen – Port of Long Beach

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Powers – Gateway Cities COG, Karen Heit – Gateway Cities COG, Jerry Wood – Gateway Cities COG, Wally Shidler – Gateway Cities Service Sector, David Hershenson – Metro, Ernest Morales – Metro, Bruce Barrows – Cerritos, Mike Kodama – OLDA, Michael Sieckert – Gateway Cities Service Sector

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy gave the MTA Board highlights on behalf of MTA Director Diane DuBois. She gave an overview of the June and July MTA Board Meetings highlighting the issue with the presentation of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that did not have a fully articulated Highway Element. The LRTP revision was centered around incorporating the Measure R commitments into the plan, making the lack of a funded highway element a problem. She also outlined an issue with the MTA Federal Transit Administration “New Starts” submissions. Gateway Cities stands to benefit from the completion of a project known as the Regional Connector, which connects the Long Beach Blue Line to the Pasadena Gold Line.

Through much discussion and negotiation, adoption of the incomplete plan was deferred until the September meeting. Integral to the deferment was the submission of letters form the four LA County Council of Governments requesting that the LRTP be deferred pending the creation of an acceptable highway element.

The development of a highway element would be assisted by the creation of an all-county stakeholders group to assist with plan development. The Public Works

Directors Committee selected Lisa Rapp from the City of Lakewood to represent Gateway Cities.

David Hershenson, Gateway Service Sector Communications Manager announced the reassignment of Alex Clifford, Gateway Service Sector General Manager, to become the point person for Intercounty rail included the California High Speed Rail Authority activities. He reported that Dana Coffey, Southbay Service Sector General Manager, would be assuming leadership of the Gateway Sector. Other changes in the Sector support would be occurring over the following months.

Jerry Wood, COG Engineer, gave an update on the I-710 Project, the traffic modeling is underway and the results will be used to update the geometric plans. The updated plans will be reviewed by the Subject Working Groups and Local Advisory Committees for comment. A scope of work is being prepared for a specialized utility plan to deal with utilities.

Jerry Wood gave background and a PowerPoint presentation on the SR-91/I-605/I-405 project. The study covers 35 miles of freeway. Traffic projects have been generated and the number of lanes identified to handle that traffic volume. Congestion "hotspots" have been identified. He reviewed the Guiding Principles adopted by the Executive Committee and how these principles would be used in creating potential solutions such as additional lanes within the existing ROW, arterial improvements, ITS and transit options. Many of the solutions would come from additional work on The Los Angeles/Orange County Intercounty Study. Wood ask that the Committee forward a recommendation to the COG Board to work with other stakeholders (Caltrans, MTA) to procure a Feasibility Analysis to further define buildable project.

Michael Kodama, OLDA Executive Director, gave a report on the OLDA submission of a Federal Railroad Administration grant for high speed rail to look at the OLDA project from Los Angeles Union Station to Palmdale.

Mohammad Mostahkami, City of South Gate discussed an issue with the MTA purposed redirection of excess or over-budgeted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

Next month's meeting will be September 2.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.