

**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
November 4, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Diane DuBois at 4:35 p.m. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane DuBois – Lakewood, Gordon Stefenhagen – Norwalk, Stan Carroll – La Habra Heights, Ray Harris – Supervisor Knabe's Office, Ken Farfsing – Signal Hill, Brynn Kernaghan – Long Beach Transit, Mohammad Mostahkami – South Gate.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Salazar – Montebello, Richard Powers, Karen Heit, Jerry Wood – Gateway Cities COG, Ernest Morales, Dana Coffey, David Hershenson, Michael Sieckert– MTA, Wally Schidler – Gateway Cities Service Sector, Gary Hamrick – Iteris, Michael Kodama – OLDA.

Karen Heit gave the I-5 report on behalf of Yvette Kirrin, I-5 Executive Director. The I-5 JPA reviewed the traffic and staging plans for Valley View Street and Alondra. The JPA is pushing aggressively for \$6.6 million in Measure R funds to construct 16 construction mitigation projects for the I-5 south of Carmenita. Lastly, the JPA is continuing to monitor and support federal legislation (earmarks) to help complete the I-5 EIR (I-605 – I-710)

Jerry Wood gave an update on the I-710 EIR/EIS. He gave credit to local advisory groups for agreeing to use AQMD air quality significance thresholds. He also covered the health risk impact and the construction phasing air quality assessment and potential mitigations. Essentially everything that the CAC recommended was incorporated by the I-710 Project Committee.

He also discussed the SR-9/I-605/I-405 and how it would move forward now that the Measure R Highway Element Funding Program has been worked through and funding identified. Funding would be available in FY2010.

Mike Kodama, Orangeline Development Authority Executive Director, talked about the Orangeline project being approved for inclusion in the newly adopted LRTP. He mentioned the OLDA earmark and it is being processed as well as the need to establish

a bench. He also talked about the SCAG Feasibility Study/Alternatives Analysis for the Pacific Electric ROA and West Santa Ana Branch in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties being out to bid, with a contract award expected in December.

Director DuBois – lead a discussion about the starting time for the Transportation Committee and that there may be a need for additional time. In the ensuing discussion, sentiment was expressed that an earlier time of 4:00 p.m. is too difficult to make. A suggestion was made that there be a timed agenda.

Director DuBois went on to discuss the LRTP adoption, she discussed the various items that were approved and placed into the Constrained (funded) element. The discussion about Strategic (Unfunded) element projects was held and staff was asked to produce a notice to GCCOG cities to identify additional projects. Ernest Morales discussed the need for the identification of new projects (even at a city level) that aggregate into a strategic plan addressing SB-375.

She discussed the outcome of the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase II and the refinement of four routes to two; the SR-60 and Whittier Boulevard alignments. These alignments will move through the EIR/EIS process. She reviewed the characteristics of each alignment and some of the flaws associated with each.

She reviewed the adoption of Measure R Local Return Guidelines and Bus operations Measure R capital and operating funds. There will be a notice out to cities to execute the assurances. The MTA will accept the signature of whoever executes the assurances.

She reviewed the Transit Blue Ribbon Committee process, and the reasons as to why this effort is needed to move the transit agenda forward. There is an identified need to rethink transit service.

She thanked individuals who went before the MTA Board and helped to move the COG agenda forward and at the same time being reasonable and supportive of other subregional projects. She discussed the motion that modified the LRTP adoption. She also discussed the COG's credibility and the need to think about the COG and the County as a whole. Start building planning consensus from the bottom up.

She discussed the Breda light rail car procurement affair and how the option approval failed at the eleventh hour providing the MTA with the opportunity for a new RFP.

Mike Sieckert, representing the Gateway Service Sector gave the service sector report, He discussed the opening of the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension (MGLEE) and gave the opening dates and the grand opening events. He also announced the initiation of the Silver Line service associated with the I-10 and the I-110 congestion reduction project and the revision of the other services that were duplicative. Questions were asked about the MGLEE safety elements requested by Supervisor Molina. Director

Dubois said a lot of the items had been taken care of and others were in process. The line has been designated as safe for operations by an independent Peer Review panel.

Mohammed Mostahkami, raised the issue of graffiti on the railroad ROW. The railroads expect someone else to clean it and the cities don't have funding. Dick Powers offered to look up a research project that examined responsibility.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.