

**GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

5:30 p. m. Buffet

6:00 p. m. Meeting

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

16401 Paramount Boulevard

Paramount, California

AGENDA

STAFF REPORTS AND OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OFFICES, 16401 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD, PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA. ANY PERSON HAVING QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANY AGENDA ITEM MAY CALL THE COG STAFF AT (562) 663-6850.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The Board of Directors will hear from the public on any item on the agenda or an item of interest that is not on the agenda. The Board of Directors cannot take action on any item not scheduled on the agenda. These items may be referred for administrative action or scheduled on a future agenda. Comments are to be limited to three minutes for each speaker, unless extended by the Board of Directors, and each speaker will only have one opportunity to speak on any one topic. You have the opportunity to address the Board of Directors at the following times:

- A. **AGENDA ITEM:** at this time the Board of Directors considers the agenda item OR during Public Comments, and
- B. **NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** during Public Comments, comments will be received for a maximum 20-minute period; any additional requests will be heard following the completion of the Board of Directors agenda; and
- C. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** at the time for public hearings.

Please keep your comments brief and complete a speaker card for the President.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL – BY SELF INTRODUCTIONS**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** - This is the time and place to change the order of the agenda, delete or add any agenda item(s).
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Three minutes for each speaker.

VI. MATTERS FROM STAFF

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR: All items under the Consent Calendar may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar and acted upon separately by the Board of Directors.

- A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 1, 2010, is presented for approval. Approval receives and files the minutes of September 1st, Board of Directors meeting.
- B. Approval of Warrant Register - Request for Approval of Warrant Register Dated October 6, 2010
- C. August 2010 Local Agency Investment Fund Statement
- D. Status Report from Lobbyist - Edington, Peel & Associates

CONSENT CALENDAR ACTION:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS A THROUGH D.

VIII. REPORTS

- A. “Combustion Out” Strategy Presentation by South Coast Air Quality Management District

15 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF AND RECEIVE AND FILE

- B. Letter of Support and Request for Co-Sponsorship for Federal Freight Act

5 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT AND REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP; RECEIVE AND FILE REPORT AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- A. Report from the Conservancy Committee – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

- B. Report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

C. Report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

D. Report from the Transportation Committee – Oral Report

3 Min

1. MTA Support for Air Resources Board GHG Targets

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

E. Report from the Committee on Homelessness – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

F. California High Speed Rail Status Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

X. REPORTS – COMMITTEES/ AGENCIES – ALL COMMITTEE / AGENCY REPORTS ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES UNLESS ADDITIONAL TIME IS GRANTED BY THE BOARD PRESIDENT

A. Matters from The I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

B. Matters from the League of California Cities – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

C. Matters from Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

D. Matters from the Orangeline Development Authority – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

E. Matters from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – Oral Report

3 Min

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

F. Matters from the Metro Gateway Cities– Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

G. Conservation Corps Report – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

H. Matters from the Coalition for America’s Gateways & Trade Corridors – Oral Report

3 Min SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

XI. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

XII. MATTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: New items will not be considered after 9:00 p.m. unless the Board of Directors votes to extend the time limit. Any items on the agenda that are not completed will be forwarded to the next regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 6:00 PM.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE COG OFFICE AT (562) 663-6850. NOTIFICATION 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING WILL ENABLE THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENT TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
Item A
Approval of Minutes

**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
September 1, 2010**

President Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
First Vice President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Second Vice President Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Immediate Past President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
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 Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Gustavo Camacho, City of Pico Rivera
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Fernando Ramirez, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member from the City of Montebello
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Ex Officio Member Richard Steinke, Port of Long Beach
ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers

Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; South Gate Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Long Beach Public Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershenson; SCAG Public Affairs Officer Matt Horton; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Officer Derrick Alatorre; I-5 JPA Executive Director/Authority Engineer Yvette Kirrin; Jose Torres, Lead Senior Supervisor, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Richard Lambert, Building Industry Association; Andy Henderson, Building Industry Association; Lan Saadatnajadi, Vice-President, HDR/PB Los Angeles; Frank Osgood, Author of Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Thomas Duarte; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Second Vice President Daniels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Executive Director requested the Board to amend the agenda to consider a letter addressing action to be taken tomorrow at the SCAG Regional Council meeting on proposed regional greenhouse gas targets under SB 375. It was moved by First Vice President Dunton, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to find that the issue regarding SCAG's consideration of regional greenhouse gas targets had come to the attention of the Board after the posting of the agenda and that action was needed to be taken that could not wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, and to add the item to the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing addressed the Board regarding a proposed letter to be presented at SCAG's Regional Council meeting the next day regarding the SCAG staff recommendation that SCAG accept a target of an 8% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020 predicated on 11 conditions. Mr. Farfsing cited the 2009 technical analysis done on behalf of the COG which demonstrated that even a 4% reduction by 2020 would be an ambitious goal for the COG to achieve. Mr. Farfsing said that SCAG is proposing to accept an 8% target with a series of "preconditions" that are highly unrealistic, such as the State restoring previous levels of funding for transportation and transit during the nine-year period up to 2020.

Mr. Farfsing referred the Board to the draft letter proposed to be presented to SCAG and requested one amendment. He said the recommendation is for the Board to send a letter recommending that SCAG request a 2020 range of 4%-8% with the initial target set at 4%. He said the last sentence in the third to last paragraph should read: "A target higher than 4% could potentially be achieved with additional funding support from the State and federal governments."

Member Wilson asked if the SCAG conditions would also apply to the 4% target. Mr. Farfsing responded that they would only apply if 8% is the top of the range.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to send the letter to SCAG with the amendment requested by Mr. Farfsing.

SCAG Regional Affairs Manager Matt Horton said there is no subregional target, just a regional one.

Richard Lambert, Building Industry Association, said that the Building Industry Association had communicated its concern that the CARB target is too high. He said CARB had rejected their concern, saying that SCAG needed to be in line with the other MPOs in the state, rather than addressing the science.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Putnam, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report recommending approval of an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the California High-Speed Rail Authority extending the MOU for two months to the end of November for completion of the technical analysis of the proposed High-Speed Rail alignment through the Gateway Cities. It was moved by Immediate Past President Stefenhagen, seconded by Member Lima, to approve the amendment to the MOU with the California High-Speed Rail Authority. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the consultants are working on changes that will delay completion of the EIR by six to twelve months. He said the Air Quality Action Plan study is underway. Mr. Wood reported that the ITS Implementation Plan will be put out to bid by MTA next month. It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member Lima, 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 said interviews with consultants who submitted responses to the RFP for the feasibility studies would be held by the MTA later in the month. It was moved by Member Aguilar, seconded by Second Vice President Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the MTA Board meeting highlights along with a letter from new Chairman Don Knabe would be

distributed soon. Member DuBois reported that legislation is underway that would change the notification requirement for the Measure R expenditure plan from one year to 60 days. She said the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations were approved by the MTA Board and notice of them will be sent out by email. It was moved by Member Barrows, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. He said that the four geographical alliances of stakeholders have held two meetings. He said help is needed to reach out to stakeholders to attend a very important meeting this month. It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham presented a report on the California High Speed Rail project. He said Supervisor Knabe had been briefed on the project and that briefings for the Congressional representatives on the cities' positions would be held next week. He said the Administrative Committee had significantly elevated the level of its concern regarding issues that are not being addressed by the High Speed Rail Authority. He said the city managers would be meeting with the executive director of the High Speed Rail Authority in September or early October. It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Second Vice President Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said Caltrans is taking the request to delay the schedule for the first project to April to the California Transportation Commission since Caltrans does not yet have possession of all the properties. She said legislation allows Caltrans to go ahead with design certification before taking possession of all rights-of-way in order to make the project eligible for federal funding. It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member DuBois, 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 SCAG.

Karen Heit presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said the Authority and the City of South Gate had received an environmental justice grant to do more outreach in the communities. It was moved by Second Vice President Daniels, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Derrick Alatorre presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He distributed invitations to the Annual Clean Air Awards Program. He said that the leaf blower program would be returning in February, with public announcements to come in October or November. It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Member Aguilar, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said Metro is holding public hearings on the Eastside Corridor Phase II project tonight in Montebello and tomorrow night in Santa Fe Springs. He said the Regional Connector will allow people to travel on the Blue Line all the way to where the Gold Line ends. It was moved by Immediate Past President Stefenhagen, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jose Torres presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. He provided an update on the Corps' weatherization project, saying they are still hiring technicians and staff. He said the Corps had received a grant from Wal-Mart that provides matching funds up to \$1,500 for landscaping with drought resistant plants. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

There were no matters from Board members.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Powers, Secretary

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM B
Approval of Warrant Register**

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM C
August 2010 Local Agency Investment
Fund Statement**

Local Agency Investment Fund
P.O. Box 942809
Sacramento, CA 94209-0001
(916) 653-3001

www.treasurer.ca.gov/pmia-laif

September 30, 2010

[PMIA Average Monthly Yields](#)

Account Number:

GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF
TREASURER
16401 PARAMOUNT BOULEVA

Transactions

August 2010 Statement

[Tran Type Definitions](#)

Effective Date	Transaction Date	Tran Type	Confirm Number	Authorized Caller	Amount
8/6/2010	8/5/2010	RD	1283058	JACK JOSEPH	350,000.00

Account Summary

Total Deposit:	<input type="text" value="350,000.00"/>	Beginning Balance:	<input type="text" value="729,133.40"/>
Total Withdrawal:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	Ending Balance:	<input type="text" value="1,079,133.40"/>

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM D**

**Status Report from Lobbyist - Edington,
Peel & Associates**

Monthly Report by Jim Dykstra to Gateway Cities COG
September 30, 2010

I and the firm Edington, Peel & Associates provided a range of services in support of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments. These included participation in a number of meetings, telephonic, email and fax exchanges and other communications.

*I continued to coordinate closely with Gateway Cities COG staff regarding efforts on behalf of the Gateway Cities COG's priorities and interests in the 111th Congress. I also continued coordination with the staff of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority on the I-5 widening initiative, the COG's number one priority.

*I continued to provide follow up regarding requests for funding in the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations process. As I have reported earlier to Gateway Cities COG officials, Reps. Grace Napolitano and Lucille Roybal-Allard, with whom I have been working, were successful in securing \$1 million for the I-5 widening project in the House version of the FY2011 Transportation/HUD appropriations bill. That legislation was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee and was approved by the full House on July 29. Prior to Congress recessing on September 29 until after the November elections, it approved a Continuing Resolution, keeping government operating until December 3 at FY10 levels. When Congress returns on November 15, it will undertake to pass an omnibus appropriations bill for the rest of FY11 incorporating all 12 appropriations bills. This includes the Transportation/HUD appropriations bill.

*I continued to focus on follow up with the Gateway Cities COG's elected Representatives in the House of Representatives and have kept the Gateway Cities COG informed of the status of the Transportation Reauthorization Act. As I have been reporting, it is highly unlikely there will be reauthorization legislation approved during this Congress.

*I have participated on Gateway Cities' behalf in conference calls and email exchanges with the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors regarding the surface transportation reauthorization bill and provided follow up information to Gateway Cities officials regarding a September 15 conference call regarding Rep. Laura Richardson's freight legislation. I have also coordinated and provided input regarding a letter Gateway Cities will be sending Southern California congressional delegation members regarding the FREIGHT bill introduced in the House by Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) and in the Senate by Sen. Frank Lautenberg. Reps. Napolitano and Richardson are cosponsors of the House bill.

*I have continued discussions and email exchanges with staff of Members of Congress representing Gateway Cities members, as well as other key congressional staff, regarding the COG's legislative priorities.

*As part of my responsibilities, I closely monitor legislation, as well as seminars, hearings, meetings and publications of key interest to legislators and senior executive branch officials for articles and information of possible interest and importance to member cities of the

Gateway Cities COG. I attend Senate and House committee hearings, follow Senate and House floor proceedings, and track legislative initiatives pertinent to Gateway Cities COG interests and priorities.

VIII. REPORTS

ITEM A

**“Combustion Out” Strategy
Presentation by South Coast Air
Quality Management District**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Powers, Executive Director

SUBJECT: “Combustion Out” Strategy Presentation by South Coast Air Quality Management District

Background

The South Coast Air Basin has for decades suffered from some of the worst air quality in the United States. The South Coast Air Quality Management District is responsible for air quality planning in the basin and has overseen substantial improvements in air quality over the years. However, significant challenges remain.

Issue

Staff of the South Coast Air Quality Management District will make a presentation on the District’s “Combustion Out” strategy to achieve air quality standards. The comprehensive goal of the Combustion-Out Outreach Plan is to promote the need for effective solutions to improve the region's air quality while simultaneously helping the economy and achieving the District’s public policy objectives:

- foster a reduction in air pollution and oil dependency
- decrease pollution-related health issues
- provide accessible transit systems with tangible economic benefits.

Recommended Action

Receive and file.

VIII. REPORTS
ITEM B

**Letter of Support and Request for Co-
Sponsorship for Federal Freight Act**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Powers

SUBJECT: Letter of Support and Requests for Co-Sponsorship for Federal Freight Act

Background

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments is a member of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC). This Washington, DC-based coalition has successfully raised the profile of the nation's freight system with Washington lawmakers. Several Senators and Representatives have introduced legislation focused on freight, which may stand alone or become part of the next surface transportation authorization by Congress.

Issue

The Coalition is seeking its members' support of a bill known as The Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act of 2010, or the FREIGHT Act. Identical companion bills have been introduced in the Senate and House. Gateway Cities Representatives Laura Richardson and Grace Napolitano are both co-sponsors of the House bill

The bill would establish a new national strategic plan for investing in freight infrastructure. In addition, it would create a freight infrastructure grant program to fund projects of national significance using merit-based criteria.

Two types of support letter are attached:

- A letter of support for the FREIGHT Act to be sent to each of the co-sponsoring Senators and Representatives.
- A letter to be sent to our Senators and other members of our delegation requesting that they consider co-sponsoring the bill.

The versions of these letters that would go to Senators are attached. Versions for House members have also been prepared.

Attachments

- Draft support letter (Senate version only)
- Draft co-sponsor request letter (Senate version only).

Recommended Action

Approve FREIGHT Act support letter and co-sponsor request letter.
Each member jurisdiction also consider sending a similar support letter.

City letterhead - SAMPLE LETTER

October 6, 2010

The Honorable [Senator]
United States Senate
[Address]
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [XXX]:

On behalf of the City of _____, I am writing to express our support for S. 3629, The Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act of 2010, the FREIGHT Act.

The FREIGHT Act is an important bill which aims to transform this nation's approach to freight transportation policy and support economic recovery. The bill provides for a comprehensive, systemic approach to infrastructure investment that addresses the nation's commerce needs while providing a solid foundation that will help our nation meet its energy, environmental and transportation safety goals.

The FREIGHT Act defines the federal government's role in freight transportation policy and planning, instructing US DOT to develop a strategic plan for investing in the country's goods movement infrastructure. In addition, it calls for the creation of a new National Freight Infrastructure Investments Grant program to fund projects of national significance using merit-based criteria. This multimodal freight program will serve the economic needs of our country in the near term and for generations to come by making investment decisions that optimize the movement of freight, unconstrained by modal silos or overlapping jurisdictions.

The City of _____ is a member of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments which includes 27 cities in Southeast Los Angeles County and have a combined population of two million people, who live and work in communities as diverse as their populations. The Gateway Cities are home to the Port of Long Beach and neighbor to the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest container ports in the U.S.

If passed, the FREIGHT Act will benefit the Gateway Cities in several ways. Locally, the Gateway Cities are the epicenter of goods movement in and through Southern California to the rest of the country. For example, fifteen percent of all the containerized goods entering the nation traverse the Gerald Desmond Bridge, which serves the Long Beach/Los Angeles port complex and is located within the Gateway Cities. By creating for the first time a federal freight infrastructure program with merit-based funding, the FREIGHT Act will help to ensure that Southern California's port and goods movement system will remain competitive. The system will be able to continue serving the rest of the nation, while providing essential local economic benefits and greatly reducing its adverse local environmental and community impacts.

We look forward to working with you to get the FREIGHT Act of 2010 moving quickly, so that our region's and nation's multimodal freight infrastructure network can live up to its potential as an economic asset and competitive advantage.

Sincerely,

Mayor

Gateway Cities Council of Governments (letterhead) SAMPLE LETTER

October 6, 2010

The Honorable [Senator]
United States Senate
[Address]
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [XXX]:

On behalf of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, I am writing to express our support for S. 3629, The Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act of 2010, the FREIGHT Act.

The 27 cities of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG), in Southeast Los Angeles County, have a combined population of two million people, who live and work in communities as diverse as their populations. The Gateway Cities are home to the Port of Long Beach and neighbor to the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest container ports in the U.S. The Gateway Cities COG has been a member of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors for several years.

The FREIGHT Act is an important bill which aims to transform this nation's approach to freight transportation policy and support economic recovery. The bill provides for a comprehensive, systemic approach to infrastructure investment that addresses the nation's commerce needs while providing a solid foundation that will help our nation meet its energy, environmental and transportation safety goals.

The FREIGHT Act defines the federal government's role in freight transportation policy and planning, instructing US DOT to develop a strategic plan for investing in the country's goods movement infrastructure. In addition, it calls for the creation of a new National Freight Infrastructure Investments Grant program to fund projects of national significance using merit-based criteria. This multimodal freight program will serve the economic needs of our country in the near term and for generations to come by making investment decisions that optimize the movement of freight, unconstrained by modal silos or overlapping jurisdictions.

If passed, the FREIGHT Act will benefit the Gateway Cities in several ways. Locally, the Gateway Cities are the epicenter of goods movement in and through Southern California to the rest of the country. For example, fifteen percent of all the containerized goods entering the nation traverse the Gerald Desmond Bridge, which serves the Long Beach/Los Angeles port complex and is located within the Gateway Cities. By creating for the first time a federal freight infrastructure program with merit-based funding, the FREIGHT Act will help to ensure that Southern California's port and goods movement system will remain competitive. The system will be able to continue serving the rest of the nation, while providing essential local economic benefits and greatly reducing its adverse local environmental and community impacts.

We look forward to working with you to get the FREIGHT Act of 2010 moving quickly, so that our region's and nation's multimodal freight infrastructure network can live up to its potential as an economic asset and competitive advantage.

Sincerely,
Gil Hurtado, President
Gateway Cities COG Board of Directors

Gateway Cities Council of Governments (letterhead)

October 6, 2010

The Honorable [Senator]
United States Senate
[Address]
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [XXX]:

On behalf of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, I encourage you to become a co-sponsor of S. 3629, The Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act of 2010, the FREIGHT Act. The FREIGHT Act was introduced on July 22, 2010 by Senators Lautenberg (NJ), Murray (WA), and Cantwell (WA). An identical companion bill was introduced in the House on July 29, 2010 by Representatives Sires (NJ), Cohen (TN), Richardson (CA), and Smith (WA).

The 27 cities of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG), in Southeast Los Angeles County, have a combined population of two million people, who live and work in communities as diverse as their populations. The Gateway Cities are home to the Port of Long Beach and neighbor to the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest container ports in the U.S. The Gateway Cities COG has been a member of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors for several years.

The FREIGHT Act is an important bill which aims to transform this nation's approach to freight transportation policy and support economic recovery. The bill provides for a comprehensive, systemic approach to infrastructure investment that addresses the nation's commerce needs while providing a solid foundation that will help our nation meet its energy, environmental and transportation safety goals.

The FREIGHT Act defines the federal government's role in freight transportation policy and planning, instructing US DOT to develop a strategic plan for investing in the country's goods movement infrastructure. In addition, it calls for the creation of a new National Freight Infrastructure Investments Grant program to fund projects of national significance using merit-based criteria. This multimodal freight program will serve the economic needs of our country in the near term and for generations to come by making investment decisions that optimize the movement of freight, unconstrained by modal silos or overlapping jurisdictions.

If passed, the FREIGHT Act will benefit the Gateway Cities in several ways. Locally, the Gateway Cities are the epicenter of goods movement in and through Southern California to the rest of the country. For example, fifteen percent of all the containerized goods entering the nation traverse the Gerald Desmond Bridge, which serves the Long Beach/Los Angeles port complex and is located within the Gateway Cities. By creating for the first time a federal freight infrastructure program with merit-based funding, the FREIGHT Act will help to ensure that Southern California's port and goods movement system will remain competitive. The system will be able to continue serving the rest of the nation, while providing essential local economic benefits and greatly reducing its adverse local environmental and community impacts.

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments respectfully requests that you consider cosponsoring the FREIGHT Act of 2010. We look forward to working with you to get the FREIGHT Act of 2010 moving quickly, so that our region's and nation's multimodal freight infrastructure network can live up to its potential as an economic asset and competitive advantage.

Sincerely,
Hon. Gil Hurtado
President

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
ITEM D - 1

Transportation Committee

MTA Support for Air Resources Board
GHG Targets

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Diane Dubois, MTA Director
BY: Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy
SUBJECT: MTA Support for Air Resources Board GHG Targets

Issue

Last month, the COG Board voted to send a letter to SCAG requesting the Regional Council recommend the Air Resources Board (ARB) adopt lower targets for the reduction of Green House Gases (GHG). At the meeting of September 2, after much discussion, the Regional Council voted to recommend GHG targets of 6% in 2020 and 8% for 2035. The Gateway Cities COG position was to recommend a 2020 range of 4% - 8% with the initial 2020 target set at 4 %. These lower targets were based upon the White Paper prepared for the COG. The COG recommended a greater target could be achieved if funding for transit is restored and other conditions are met.

The MTA Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee weighed in on the issue at its meeting of September 16. The staff recommendation was to support the ARB targets. There was discussion concerning the need to support the ARB targets and encourage the return of funding for transportation initiatives. The MTA staff position, supported by the Committee, was to show the agency's commitment to SB 375 by supporting the ARB's targets. There was recognition that there will be obstacles to meeting these targets and that the targets are draft.

I explained that the GCCOG's lower target recommendation was predicated on the results of the White Paper that indicated that if 80% of the GC jurisdictions used a wide variety of land use and transportation strategies it would be possible to meet the goal of 4% reduction in GHG by 2020. I also pointed out that the achievement of the targets is based upon land use strategies an area where the MTA does not affect policy. The vote at the Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee was 4-1.

The item was pulled from the Consent Calendar at the full MTA Board meeting September 23, and discussed. The Board of Supervisors had not voted on the targets and there was some discussion whether or not it was appropriate for the MTA to support the targets when the Regional Council comprised of local elected officials voted for lower targets. A substitute motion to support the SCAG recommendation failed and the original support vote passed.

There was discussion indicating that there would be a chance to revisit the targets in five years.

Recommended Action

Receive and file.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
ITEM F
High Speed Rail Status Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Powers, Executive Director

BY: Fred Latham, City Manager of Santa Fe Springs and Chair, City Managers Committee for the High Speed Rail Project

SUBJECT: California High Speed Rail Status Report

Background

For the past six months the Gateway COG cities of Vernon, Commerce, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, La Mirada, and Buena Park (collectively Corridor Cities); have been engaged in a collaborative process with the California high Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and its consultants to identify the “right” High Speed Rail project for the LA to Anaheim Corridor. The Gateway Cities COG and CHSRA provided the Corridor Cities and their technical staffs’ assistance from Jerry Wood through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Corridor Cities are currently finalizing a letter to the CHSRA in which a number of unanswered “big picture” and “detail” issues, concerns and questions are articulated. Upon its completion, the COG Board will receive a copy of this letter.

The letter requests that each of the items be immediately addressed by CHSRA. The urgency of the request is prompted by the timeline demands placed on CHSRA by the utilization of the Federal ARRA (Stimulus) funds. These time constraints are driving the development of the High Speed Rail Project and the environmental clearance process.

The CHSRA timeline calls for critical decisions and documents to be completed over the next three months. The Corridor Cities believe that to date insufficient due diligence has been exercised in the development of these documents.

The Corridor Cities are pursuing a “two-tiered” approach for providing feedback to CHSRA. The letter will represent issues, concerns, and questions on which there is consensus among the cities, particularly as they relate to the region and the corridor. Each city retains the right to set forth its own unique concerns directly to the Authority.

Recommended Action

The Corridor Cities are requesting that the Gateway Cities COG Board reaffirm its adopted position to support the High Speed Rail project within the region only if CHSRA meaningfully responds to the concerns of the Gateway Cities’ corridor cities and Buena Park. The COG Board previously unanimously approved this position.