

**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
December 1, 2010**

President Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
First Vice President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Immediate Past President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
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 Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Alberto Perez, City of Montebello
Member Gustavo Camacho, City of Pico Rivera
Member Joe Serrano, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Curt Pederson, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Second Vice President Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Susan Tripp, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gerry Hertzberg, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
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; South Gate City Manager Ron Bates; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Community Development Director Sonia Southwell; SCAG Director of Land Use and Environmental Planning Huasha Liu; SCAG Public Affairs Officer Matt Horton; MWD Senior Regional Affairs Representative Luis Cetina; Barbara Levine, Senior Regional Manager, LAEDC; Jose Torres, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Ayman Salama, Senior Project Manager, TRC; Tom Ionta, Senior Project Manager CH2M Hill; Frank Osgood, Author of Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; 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.

Member Aguirre 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 Member Lima, seconded by Member Aguilar, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Barbara Levine, Senior Regional Manager, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, presented an update on LAEDC's Business Assistance Program in the Gateway Cities. She congratulated the City of Cerritos for winning the LAEDC award as the most business friendly city of cities under 60,000 population. She said other finalists from the Gateway Cities as business friendly cities were Commerce, Downey, La Mirada, and Whittier.

Ms. Levine discussed the business retention activities in the subregion. She said the mission of LAEDC is business attraction, expansion, and retention, as well as job growth for all areas of Los Angeles County. She said they work in partnership with cities and the County. She thanked the COG for being an early Champion of the LAEDC Strategic Plan for Economic Development in Los Angeles County. She briefly discussed the layoff aversion projects done for the SASSFA and SELACO WIBs.

Ms. Levine said that the economy is picking up, particularly with more activity at the ports. She said that retail stores will be closing, especially those in unattractive strip malls. She said there are signs of recovery, but there are still empty properties.

It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by First Vice President Dunton, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Huasha Liu, Director of Land Use and Environmental Planning for SCAG, gave a report on SCAG's Climate and Economic Development Project. She said survey results show the most important thing today is jobs. She said that, in the past, when the Regional Transportation Plan has been done, there has never been an economic impact analysis until now, with the new RTP. She said SCAG will conduct a regional economic impact analysis as part of the Sustainable Communities Strategy under SB 375. She said SCAG had held two stakeholder meetings and established committees and focus groups. She said the next stakeholder meeting will be held on January 12 and all are invited. At that meeting, consultants will model suggested policies to see how effective they will be.

It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee recommending that the Board retain the services of California State University Long Beach to develop and maintain a demographic data base for the Gateway Cities. He said the COG currently does not have a demographic data management and forecasting ability, even though the Joint Powers Agreement lists data base management as one of the COG's functions. He said the lack of this data places the Gateway Cities at a disadvantage when applying for state and federal grants. In addition, this data is of critical importance to developing the subregional Sustainable Communities Strategy under SB 375. Mr. Farfsing said the proposed cost of \$60,665 is recommended to be funded by a formula based on a flat rate of \$1,500 per city, with the balance based on a small percentage (less than one-tenth of one percent) of each city's RDA housing set aside funds. He said that this is option 2 in the staff report; with option 1 based strictly on the size of each city's housing set aside.

Member Carroll asked the basis for selecting Cal State Long Beach and if there had been an open bid process. South Gate City Manager Ron Bates responded that the managers wanted a strong academic entity based on how successful Orange County has been with the data base established by Cal State Fullerton. He said they had looked at people who had done research in this area in the COG and found that they are working at Cal State Long Beach. Mr. Farfsing, in answer to Member Carroll, said that this did not go out to bid.

Member O'Donnell said that Long Beach could do this project on its own for its own city but will do this through the COG. He moved that the Board approve option 2 for funding the project.

Member Carroll offered a substitute motion to put the project out to competitive

bid. The motion failed for lack of a second.

It was moved by Member Carroll to approve option 1. The motion failed for lack of a second.

It was moved by First Vice President Dunton, seconded by Member Aguirre, to retain Cal State Long Beach to perform the project to develop a subregional data base. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Carroll to fund the project using option 1. The motion failed for lack of a second.

It was moved by Member Aguirre, seconded by Member Bayer, to approve the option 2 funding formula. The motion was approved unanimously, with Member Carroll abstaining.

The Executive Director presented an update on the County Energy Program. He said the County had to restructure the program, which originally was to be based on AB 811 liens on the properties of residential homeowners who wished to participate in the program. Because the federal home mortgage corporations did not approve of those liens, the program is now going to be based on grant-funded rebates to homeowners who obtain financing to make energy saving improvements to their residences. He said the County had renamed the program Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County and had retained a large team of consultants to administer the program and do marketing and outreach, as well as contractor certification. He said the COG will coordinate with the County's consultants in outreach and communications with our member cities.

It was moved by Member O'Donnell, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member O'Donnell presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He reported that Conservancy Executive Officer Belinda Faustino would be retiring effective May 4, 2011, and that the Conservancy Board had approved a contract with CPS Human Resources Services to conduct the recruitment for a new Executive Officer. It was moved by Member Aguirre, seconded by Member Aguilar, to receive and file the report and to send a letter of commendation to Belinda Faustinos for her service as the Conservancy's Executive Officer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the change order for the EIR/EIS should be out to URS next week. He said URS is currently working under a limited notice to proceed, and, because of the changes, is about a year behind schedule. It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member Aguilar, 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 the consultants selected for the feasibility study. He said the consultants are working under a limited notice to proceed to do traffic counts. He said the traffic projections will be very interesting. It was moved by Member Aguilar, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager Fred Latham presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. He said he first wanted to announce that Santa Fe Springs Councilwoman Betty Putnam is retiring effective December 9, and that a reception would be held at 5:00 p.m. that day at the City Library. He reported that the Committee on Homelessness is in the process of doing some realignment of the local alliances at the direction of the County and that a draft plan is being finalized. It was moved by Member Aguilar, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fred Latham presented a report on the California High Speed Rail project. He said the decision of the federal government to fund the Fresno to Merced segment first takes some pressure off of the segment through the Gateway Cities. He said he expected the High Speed Rail Authority Board to affirm this decision. He said that he then expects the deadlines affecting the local segment to be extended. He said there are two Congressional initiatives regarding high speed rail. He said the Republicans are pushing to take back the funding for high speed rail projects, and that the California delegation is trying to assemble ARRA funds that have been turned back by other states. It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no 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 next week SCAG will be hosting GIS training and that tomorrow SCAG is hosting an Economic Recovery Summit. It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member O'Donnell, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said the Authority has some issues with SCAG regarding the Pacific Electric West Santa Ana Branch study and wants to broaden the perspective of the study. She said the cities of South Gate and Huntington Park had received Environmental Justice grants for planning for the project. She said there would be a workshop in January for elected officials from the Gateway

Cities segment of the project. It was moved by Member Infanzon, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

There was no report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector.

Jose Torres presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. He said the Corps' weatherization project had kicked off on Thanksgiving weekend and that four homes have been done so far. He referred the Board to informational brochures on the project. He said the Corps is also currently doing a project on the catch basins in the City of La Habra Heights. The Executive Director reported that the Conservation Corps had recently dedicated a new recycling facility in the City of Signal Hill. It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member Dobson, 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 the Board of Directors.

President Hurtado announced the appointment of Member Edward Wilson to the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee. He said he wished Member Anne Bayer well on her retirement from the Downey City Council.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.