


**WESTSIDE CITIES**

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Date:** May 15, 2008

**To:** Westside Cities Council of Governments

**From:** Jody Hall Esser, Facilitator

**Subject:** **Discussion RE Whether to Increase the Size of Standing Committees From Two to Three Board Members Per Committee; and Appoint/Reappoint Members to the two WSCCOG Standing Committees**

**Section 7 D. of the WSCCOG JPA** provides that, *“As needed the Governing Board may create permanent or ad hoc advisory committees to give advice to the Governing Board on such matters as may be referred to such committees by the Governing Board. All committees shall have a stated purpose before they are formed and shall remain in existence until they are dissolved by the Governing Board. Qualified persons shall be appointed to such committees by the Governing Board and each such appointee shall serve at the pleasure of the Governing Board. Committees, unless otherwise provided by law, this Agreement, the By-laws or by the direction of the Governing Board, may be composed of representatives to the Governing Board and other persons.”*

**Article III. B. 4 of the WSCCOG By-laws** provides that, the Governing Board may, *“Appoint Standing Committees and, if necessary, committees to study specific problems, programs or other matters which it has approved for study.”*

Currently, there are two Standing WSCCOG Committees: The Homeless Issues Committee and the Transportation Committee and the Board have chosen to limit Membership to Delegate and Alternate Members of the Board.

1. **The Homeless Committee** generally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in alternate months from Board meetings, at 12:30 PM in the Main Library in Santa Monica. To date, Members of the Homeless Issues Committee have been: Mayor Richard Bloom (SM Delegate) and Vice Mayor Carol Gross (CC Alternate). They serve as Co-Chairs, and actions/recommendations are by consensus of these two individuals. Meetings are regularly attended by staff from all member cities and other interested parties. Council Member Kevin McKeown (SM Alternate) has also attended a number of these meetings and Beverly Hills Council Member and COG Chair Linda Briskman has also attended one Homeless Committee meeting.
2. **The Transportation Committee** generally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of alternate months from Board meetings, at 9:30 am in the Beverly Hills City Hall. (Meeting dates

## Committee Assignments

may be moved to Mondays to accommodate Members' schedules.) To date, Members of the Transportation Committee have been Mayor John Heilman (WH Delegate) and Council Member Linda Briskman (BH Delegate). They serve as Co-Chairs, and actions/recommendations are by consensus of these two individuals. Meetings are regularly attended by staff from all member cities and other interested parties.

While each committee is currently comprised of two Board members, it has been noted that now that there are six jurisdiction members of the COG, Committee membership could be increased to three members each.

At the July and September meetings of the Board, the members discussed whether the terms of Committee Members should be staggered or rotated. After discussing the matter, the Members agreed that it is important to provide an opportunity for all members to become familiar with and to participate in Committee proceedings and that committee membership would continue on a volunteer basis and that the opportunity/importance of all Board Members becoming familiar with Committee issues would be highlighted by the staff/Executive Director whenever Committee assignments/membership is agendaized.

It is therefore appropriate at this time to decide whether the number of committee members should be increased from two to three Board Members per committee and to determine whether to appoint or reappoint members to these Committees for the 2008-09 Fiscal Year.

### **Recommended Action:**

- 1. That the Board discuss whether committee membership should be increased; and**
- 2. That the Chair call for volunteers to serve on the Committees and vote to appoint/reappoint committee membership or approve membership by acclamation.**