



WESTSIDE CITIES

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

WSSCOG Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, Aug 14, 2008 at 9:30 AM

Location: Beverly Hills City Hall
Third Floor, Conference Room A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM by Co-Chair Briskman
Self introductions followed.

II. Follow-up to COG Board Meeting of 7/17/08

Jody Hall Esser, COG Executive Director commented on the Transportation related Work Program items discussed by the COG Board at their meeting in July.

She also noted that staff would continue to coordinate through conference calls every other week, to follow-up on strategies approved by the Board, and to advance the COG's priority transportation projects.

Mrs. Hall Esser noted that the Board had approved formation of a third standing committee on Sustainability that the Committee would meet for the first time in Sept. and on alternate months starting in October. She also noted that those involved as panelists at the June 5th Sustainability Summit sponsored by the COG would be informed of the Committee's formation and invited to attend future meetings and keep track of recommended Committee initiatives and progress.

III. Update: Half-Cent Transportation Sales Tax Measure

Ellen Isaacs representing Assembly Member Feuer was congratulated on the passage of AB2321. Laurie Neuman, was thanked and the important Role Senator Kuehl has played in championing the COG projects and addressing COG concerns was noted. Ms. Isaacs and Claudette Moody, Deputy to Metro Board Member O'Connor explained last minute amendments to the bill; noted the Senate is expected to pass the legislation and that the Governor has committed to sign the measure. Brief discussion ensued regarding whether the Governor's one cent measure versus "our" half-cent measure would be a negative competing factor. Co-Chair Briskman noted she believed if both are on the ballot, the voters will choose the lower amount and one that benefits them locally. A recent support position taken by the Federation of Labor, and the fact that Metro Board Member Lemming has pledged to put his non-profit organization behind the measure were noted. It was also noted that Mayor Villaraigosa is expected to head the campaign for passage of the measure.

Continued contact through members lobbyists to ensure passage of AB 2321 and the Governor's signing the bill into law, was suggested.

It was recommended that thank you letters be sent to Assembly member Feuer, Senator Kuehl and others who worked on the sales tax measure actions by the Metro Board, Board of Supervisors, and on passage of AB2321.

Co-Chair Briskman reminded all that our message must be carried forward and should emphasize that the Expo and Subway projects are warranted and worth the cost; these projects will serve the region, providing vital connections to other areas. If there's a break anywhere in the transportation system, the system's effectiveness as a whole is compromised.

The Executive Director was asked to consult with staff regarding an appropriate way to recognize Senator Kuehl's efforts on behalf of the COG.

IV. Update: Westside Subway Extension Project

Jody Litvak advised that Metro was nearing the end of the alternatives analysis for this project. She noted that invitations were in the mail inviting electeds in the study area to meetings in West Hollywood and Los Angeles, to be updated on the project. Mrs. Litvak noted that results will be available for public review in September and then on to the Board in October or November. The Board will be asked to authorize preparation of the EIR/EIS and it is hoped the studies will continue regardless of the sales tax ballot measure so that the project is ready to go when funding is available. Project funding may be in doubt, but the need isn't.

V. Update: Recommended Public Education, Advocacy and Other Efforts and Assignments

None were noted.

VI. Next Steps, Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

It was announced that the next meeting will be October 9, 2008 at 9:30 AM Beverly Hills City Hall. Mrs. Esser said she would work with staff to draft the agenda for review by the Members.

VII. Receive and File:

June 12, 2008 Meeting Notes were distributed for review and reference.

VIII. Announcements:

Mrs. Esser announced that a tour of Phase I or II Expo tour will be rescheduled in Oct. or Nov.

Co-Chair Briskman noted a future COG Board meeting date conflict: the League's Legislative Briefing is scheduled for Nov. 19010. Mrs. Hall Esser advised she would agendize discussion o this potential conflict at the Sept. Board meeting.

Co-Chair Briskman noted that, as reported earlier in the year, and in an attempt to follow the example set by Council Member Weiss with a similar event, the City of Beverly Hills will sponsor a Transportation Symposium on Jan 23 or Feb. 6, 2009. The forum, being planned in cooperation with Beverly Hills' Traffic and Parking Commission, will discuss "Traffic/Transportation 2030: Flintstones or Jetsons?" She said she hoped the COG and Member jurisdictions would consider being co-sponsors of the event, including making a contribution – no matter how small, towards expenses. She explained the event will be no fee to participants, include a keynote speaker, a panel of experts and quality moderator and provide for a Q&A session.

Jody Litvak noted that she recently forwarded information about the Ford Foundation Innovations in America Government Grant deadline pending (Sept. 30). She encourages all to apply, noting she had been a first round rater in past and would share her knowledge with any callers.

Mrs. Hall Esser noted that she was putting together a folder for each member jurisdiction's electeds and staff to include By-laws, JPA, a listing of each Committee's stated purpose and membership as well as COG appointments to SCAG, the League, etc. Kate Vernez noted this would provide for all Council Members to understand the workings of the COG, the purpose of subcommittees and committee membership/assignments.

IX. Public Comment RE Items Not On the Agenda

Mr. Garcetti informed of his recent endeavors, his photographs and book on clean water, and a pending project picturing women on bicycles in Paris. He explained the Paris bicycle rental program called "Velib" (underwritten by advertiser J C Decux), and his efforts to interest key electeds to work towards duplication of this very successful program. He advised he is currently discussing a potential pilot project involving the Westside and was asked to keep the Committee informed.

X. Adjournment

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 M.

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Linda Briskman, Council member, City of Beverly Hills

Staff: Beverly Hills: Martha Eros
Culver City: Diana Chang
Santa Monica: Kate Vernez
West Hollywood: Terri Slimmer

COG: Jody Hall Esser

Other: Christina Romero, representing US Congressman Waxman;
Laurie Neuman, representing CA State Senator Kuehl; Ellen Isaacs, representing CA Assembly Member Feuer; Claudette Moody, Deputy to Metro Board Member O'Connor; Jody Litvak, Metro; Gil Garcetti