



WESTSIDE CITIES

· BEVERLY HILLS
· CULVER CITY
· LOS ANGELES
· SANTA MONICA
· WEST HOLLYWOOD

Date: May 31, 2007

To: Westside Cities Council of Governments

From: Jody Hall Esser, Executive Director

Re: **Executive Director's Report #3**

1. COG ADMINISTRATION

Cog Administrative Guide I am continuing to compile a "guide" for the new Executive Director to contain all policy and administrative practices established by the COG to date. This handbook will also include copies of the JPA, By-laws, legal counsel direction/advice, rosters, and information regarding League, Metro and SCAG appointments. I plan to present the general policy directives for Board review and confirmation in July. Once reviewed, the handbook can also be issued to City Managers/city staff and Board Members.

AB889 (LIEU): (Green Line Construction Authority) In the April Executive Director's Report I advised that a letter was being prepared to be sent over the signatures of the Transportation Committee Co-Chairs (Mayor Heilman and Council Member Briskman) advising that the Committee Co-chairs believed that absent broad agreement as to project alignment and funding, creation of the Green Line Construction Authority was premature. Supervisor Burke's staff were advised of the proposed letter and concurred with the proposed text. Councilmember Rosendahl's staff members were also provided a copy of the proposed letter and were advised this would not effect the COG's future consideration of adding the Green Line project to the list of COG transportation and infrastructure priorities

Ultimately, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills staff decided not to present the letter for the Co-Chairs signatures. This decision was discussed pointedly after the fact. The positive outcome is that the Guide (referenced above) already in preparation will assist me and the next Director to prepare/present correspondence directly for signature with the understanding that the Director will be held accountable by the Board for action/inaction accordingly.

2. UPDATE REGARDING THE COUNTY JOINING THE WSCCOG

Discussions With the County RE Joining the COG – Preliminary discussions have taken place. Because the County has its own internal processes, authorization to execute the JPA, appointment of a Delegate and Alternate to the COG Board and appropriation of annual dues could take some time. Given that the majority of contiguous boundaries is shared with Supervisor Yaroslavsky and Supervisor Burke, and that they/their staff have shown significant interest in COG business to date, it is recommended the Board consider asking them to consider serving as Delegate and Alternate respectively. (The By-laws

amendment put in place in January provides an opportunity for participation by the third Supervisor whose district abuts touches another member city.) Unless the Members prefer/direct otherwise at the meeting on May 31, this suggestion will be included in future discussions with these Supervisors and their staff.

3. "GRANT" FUNDED PROJECTS

SCAG Funded Workforce Housing Feasibility and Implementation Research Project:

As noted in previous reports, the (four) Westside Cities applied to SCAG for a grant, "...to better understand the technical, legal and feasibility aspects of workforce housing in the Westside Cities subregion." The purpose of this grant would be to provide information to decision-makers and staff so they can identify opportunities to facilitate projects and/or make policy changes that encourage workforce housing in their jurisdiction.

The grant application has been reviewed by Caltrans and FTA and remains in the SCAG budget. Based on contact with SCAG staff today, we have every reason to believe it will be funded July 1.

Westside Traffic Synchronization Project: As previously reported an LA City lobbyist was in contact with the lobbyist from West Hollywood earlier this year regarding potential state funding for a traffic light synchronization project for the Westside. Mayor Villaraigosa did put out a feeler to see if we (LA +Westside cities joining together) have a chance to qualify for funding for this project from of Prop. 1B. There has been no further word on the potential/eligibility for such an application of state bond monies but if we are asked for support, we're poised to move quickly.

4. PENDING LEGISLATION

AB391 (LIEU): (Increase in municipal membership on the SCAQMD Board

Assembly Member Lieu has been working with Senator Negrete-McLeod to incorporate the provisions of AB 391 into her legislation SB 886 which currently deals with removing the term limits for AQMD chairs in several air quality districts including the AQMD. Our coalition has been waiting for SB 886 to come back from Leg. Counsel with new amendments so that we can move forward with support.

Unfortunately, in late April, the bill returned with inaccuracies that do not reflect the positions of either our coalition or the AQMD. As a result of subsequent meetings, it became clear that this was truly (only) a drafting error. All seem to be working for language that supports a new seat on the Board. There still remains some discussion as to whether the seat will represent the current Western sector cities with the addition of Calabasas and Malibu or whether there will be a requirement for a new division of the eastern and western boundaries or possibly something else.

On 5/23, Jacki Bacharach confirmed that the bill should be amended in the Assembly and that she is working one trying to come up with the division of cities for the new seats. On 5/23, four alternative proposals were distributed to Westside city staff for input. Due to the short trigger for response, it will not be possible to bring this item to the COG, but I will work with the Deputy City Managers/City Managers to formulate a recommendation.

Long Range Transportation Plan: As expected, action on the Plan has not taken place since the March 15th COG meeting. As previously agreed, should the review process move more quickly than anticipated, the m Board Members will be advised of opportunities to be present at meetings where COG interests can be protected and letter(s) of support shall be prepared for the Chair's signature.

jhe:MH