



WESTSIDE CITIES

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTSIDE CITIES COG

Meeting Notes

Thursday May 31, 2007

11:45 AM Lunch

12:15 PM Business Meeting

City of Los Angeles

Loyola Marymount University
University Hall – McIntosh Room
1 LMU Drive, Suite 3999
LA, CA 90045

IN ATTENDANCE:

Beverly Hills:

Council Member Linda J. Briskman. Staff: Katie Lichtig, David Lightner, Scott Miller, Shana Epstein, Aaron Kunz, Daniel E. Cartagena, Maria Rychlicki

Culver City:

Vice Mayor Carol Gross, Council Member Scott Malsin. Staff: Jerry Fulwood, Steve Cunningham, Shelly Wolfberg, Bill LaPointe, Elaine Jeng.

Santa Monica:

Council Member Richard Bloom, Council member Kevin McKeown. Staff: Kate Vernez.

West Hollywood:

Mayor John Heilman. Staff: Paul Arevalo, Joan English.

Los Angeles:

Council Member Bill Rosendahl. Staff: Norman Kulla (CD11), Jay Greenstein (CD5), Michael Karsch (CLA).

Staff:

Jody Hall Esser (Executive Director), Joan Kassan (Assistant to Executive Director).

Other Attendees:

Metro Board Chair and SM Council Member Pam O'Connor; Corey Jackson (Representing US Senator Boxer), Laurie Newman (Representing State Senator Keuhl), Flora Gil Krisiloff (Representing Supervisor Yaroslavsky), Ann Marie Wallace (League of CA Cities), Jody Litvak (Metro), Claudette Moody (Deputy to Metro 1st VP O'Connor), Renee Berlin (Metro Planning), Christine Jerian (SCAG), Patrician Price (AQMD), Cheryl Friedling (West Basin Municipal Water District), Samantha O'Neil (SM Chamber) Jason Weiner (Westside Economic Collaborative), Stephen Bentley (WPdRNC), Ken Ruben (Southern California Transit Advocates); Clarence Griffin (LMU)

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM by Chair Bloom.

Council Member Bill Rosendahl was called upon to welcome all to the City of Los Angeles, and introduced Mr. Clarence Griffin, Director of Community and Local Government Relations for Loyola Marymount University.

Mr. Griffin welcomed all to LMU, expressed Father Laughton's regret at not being in town to meet those in attendance and provided a brief history of the development of the University in Westchester.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Bloom initiated round-the-room introductions.

Voting members present for the meeting were identified as Council Member Briskman (Beverly Hills), Council Member Scott Malsin (Culver City), Council member Bill Rosendahl (Los Angeles), Mayor Bloom (Santa Monica) and Mayor Heilman (West Hollywood).

3. APPROVAL MARCH 15, 2007 MEETING NOTES

The Meeting Notes from the Governing Board meeting of March 15, 2007, were approved by consensus without addition/correction.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 4(D) was removed from the consent calendar for discussion.

Items 4(A), 4(B), 4(C) and 4(E) on the Consent Calendar were approved as presented.

(A) Receive and File Estimated Financial Position as of June 30, 2007

(B) Appointment of an Alternate Representative to the MTA's Streets and Freeways Subcommittee

(C) Transportation Committee's Recommendation that the Board Request WSCCOG Member Cities Reconfirm Support for the Westside Subway Extension Project and Agendize Responses for Board Meeting of July 19, 2007.

(D) Transportation Committee's Recommendation that the Board Request Member Cities Conditionally Support Adding the "Green Line to LAX" Project as Number Four on the WSCCOG's List of Transportation and Infrastructure Improvement Projects .

(E) Executive Director’s Report #3: Prep of Administrative Guide, Status of Discussions with the County, “Grant Funded Projects” and Pending Legislation.

Items 4(A), 4(B), 4(C) and 4(E) on the Consent Calendar were approved by consensus of the members, as presented.

REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION:

(D) Transportation Committee’s Recommendation that the Board Request Member Cities Conditionally Support Adding the “Green Line to LAX” Project as Number Four on the WSCCOG’s List of Transportation and Infrastructure Improvement Projects .

A brief history of the agenda topic was provided. Councilman Rosendahl noted the concern That this Green Line project would compete for funding with other Westside Cities COG priorities. He said all must work to create new revenue streams for support of these projects. He noted the COG’s list does not include any north/south traffic circulation improvement projects. He commented that he absolutely supports the Expo project; that the Subway to the Sea will have great value and significant potential cost. He reminded we all need to look presidential candidates in the eye and make them declare their support for transportation funding for our area. He said his dream is to secure 100 Billion for transportation and infrastructure improvements over the next 10 years.

Vice Mayor Carol Gross thanked Council member Rosendahl for his collaborative comments and noted agreement that the public is ready for action evidenced by their supporting transportation bond issues in the last statewide election. She added that we have to wait for funding to support projects one at a time, we’ll never catch up.

Mayor Heilman commented that the COG has established a priority order for transportation and infrastructure improvement projects that have been approved by member cities. He noted that the Transportation Committee recommends consideration of adding the Green Line Project as number four on the COG’s list, subject to certain conditions. He also noted his concern that LA clout might jump the Green Line project ahead of the subway project. He said he will advocate for adding this project to the list as conditioned, but not if it existing blurs priorities.

Council Member Briskman suggested staff revise the conditions to reflect the project moving forward contingent on additional funding and present the revised conditions of support to the Transportation Committee and City Managers/LA City Staff group prior to distributing the revised language for member city councils consideration.

There was a brief discussion regarding funding available from the Los Angeles International Airport and the FAA.

Mayor Bloom also expressed concern about funding to operate projects as they come on line. He noted that the City of Santa Monica will be looking to identify operational funding before construction commences.

Moved by Briskman, seconded by Heilman, to refer conditional support for adding the Green Line as number four to the COG's list of transportation and infrastructure improvement projects back to the Transportation Committee so that staff can develop additional language regarding project funding; and that the revised conditions of support also be shared with the City Managers/LA City Staff group prior to distributing the revised language for member city councils consideration. The motion was approved by consensus of the members.

5. NEW BUSINESS

(A) Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary; Appointment of Treasurer

Chair Bloom called for nominations for the position of Chair. Mayor Heilman nominated Council member Linda Briskman. There were no other nominations. Council Member Briskman was elected Chair by acclamation.

Mayor Bloom asked Chair Briskman to conduct the rest of the meeting. Chair Briskman asked Mayor Bloom if he had any comments he wanted to make. Mayor Bloom thanked all for the opportunity to serve as first Chair of the COG and for their cooperation during the year.

Chair Briskman called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Mayor Bloom nominated Mayor Heilman. There were no other nominations; Mayor Heilman was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

Chair Briskman called for nominations for the position of Secretary. Council Member Malsin was the sole nominee. Council member Malsin was elected to the position of Secretary by acclamation of the members.

In conformance with the JPA and By-laws that call for the Treasurer of the city whose representative is elected Chair to serve as COG Treasurer, Scott Miller, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer for Beverly Hills, was introduced as the new COG Treasurer for 2007-08

(B) Approval of Budget and Determination of Dues to be Assessed Member Cities for 2007-08 FY

Moved by Mayor Heilman and seconded by Chair Briskman to adopt the Budget and assess annual dues as recommended.

Roll Call Vote: Members Bloom, Briskman, Heilman, Malsin and Rosendahl voted "Yes".

(C) Nomination of WSCCOG Representatives to Westside/Central Service

Sector Governance Council

By consensus of the members, Mr. Art Ida (Culver City) and Ms. Terri Slimmer (West Hollywood) were confirmed as WSCCOG representatives to the Westside/Central Service Sector Governance Council. Santa Monica advised it would attempt to secure a volunteer to fill the third vacancy.

(D) Election/Appointment of Representatives to three SCAG Policy Committees: 1) Community, Economic and Human Development; 2) Energy and Environment; and 3) Transportation and Communication.

Following brief discussion regarding the role and responsibility of policy committee members and clarification that any elected official from member cities could serve on the policy committees, Mayor Bloom moved and Mayor Heilman seconded that Vice Mayor Carol Gross be appointed to the Transportation and Communication Committee and Council Member Scott Malsin be appointed to the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee. Chair Briskman noted that she would attempt to identify a representative to serve on the Energy and Environment Committee from the City of Beverly Hills.

(E) Appointment/reappointment of WSCCOG Representative to the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors for 2007-2008.

Moved by Council Member Malsin, seconded by Mayor Bloom to reappoint Vice Mayor Carol Gross to serve as the WSCCOG's representative on the Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors for 2007-2008. The motion passed by consensus of the members.

(F) Approval of Integrated Water Management Plan MOU

Moved by Mayor Heilman, seconded by Council Member Malsin to approve the Integrated Water Management Plan MOU. The motion was unanimously approved.

(G) Receive and File Draft RFP for Recruitment of Executive Director, Establish Recruitment Committee and Appoint Two Committee Members.

Mrs. Esser gave a brief overview of the Draft RFP and Scope of Services. She requested the documents be Received and Filed, she called for questions and asked for any suggested additions/deletions to the documents. She also recommended that the Board consider establishing an Ad-Hoc Recruitment Committee and appoint two elected representative members.

The Draft RFP and Scope of Services were Received and Filed by consensus of the members.

Council Member Scott Malsin suggested that two tasks in the Scope of Services, namely:” 1) *Organize and provide lobbying/advocacy efforts to further WSCCOG programs and priorities; [and] 2. Act as principal WSCCOG liaison to state, and federal agencies and staff to further established WSCCOG programs and priorities*”, be moved from “Potential Future Hourly Services” to “Primary Responsibilities”. No other members expressed an opinion on this matter; Mrs. Esser suggested that if the members agreed, Mr. Malsin’s recommendation be referred to the City Managers/LA City Staff committee and the Recruitment Committee, if formed, for further discussion. No other suggested changes or additions to the RFP/Scope were forthcoming. Mrs. Esser recommended the City Managers/LA City Staff committee and Recruitment Committee also review the final RFP and Scope of Services prior to release.

Receipt and file of the Draft RFP was moved by Mayor Heilman, seconded by Council Member Malsin and approved by consensus of the members.

West Hollywood City Manager Paul Arevalo noted that he and Culver City City Manager Jerry Fulwood, had volunteered to be the City Manager (staff) representatives to the Recruitment Committee, and responded to questions regarding the purpose and function of the committee as proposed. Mayor Heilman noted that he was not interested in interviewing a number of candidates unless necessary. Mr. Arevalo responded that if the Board Members agreed, only the top one or two candidates would be presented for interview if the choice was clear. No Board Member voiced opposition to this approach. Members Bloom and Briskman volunteered to serve on the Committee. Creation of the Committee and membership by out-going Chair Bloom and in-coming Chair Briskman were agreed by unanimous consensus.

(H) Authorization to Execute a New Agreement Mary JoAnne “Jody” Hall Esser, to Provide for Facilitation Services to the WSCCOG Between July 1, 2007 and Report Date of a New Executive Director

Moved by Mayor Bloom, seconded by Mayor Heilman to execute a new agreement with Jody Hall Esser for facilitation Services.

Roll Call Vote: Members Bloom, Briskman, Heilman, Malsin and Rosendahl voted “Yes”.

6. 2007 WORK PROGRAM / PRESENTATIONS

(A) Report and Recommendations from the COG Homeless Committee:

Mrs. Esser noted that a corrected copy of the February 15, 2007 Homeless Issues Committee Meeting Notes has been included with the agenda materials. She also noted that there were three typos in the Homeless Committee Meeting Notes of April 19, 2007. By consensus, both sets of Meeting Notes were Received and Filed as corrected.

Mayor Bloom gave a brief report on his attendance at the USCIIH Annual Summit in March and made note of the unique UK program reported on by its representative Laura Casey. The UK program concentrates services for the homeless and Ms. Casey recommended homeless counts are most accurate when taken between 12 midnight and 5 AM.

Vice Mayor Gross provided a brief summary of the April meeting and noted that police and fire representatives have been asked to attend the June meeting of the Committee.

(B) MTA Southwest Cities Corridor and Westside Central Service Sector Report.

Council Member and Metro Vice Chair Pam O'Connor reported on the recent five-hour public hearing on bus and rail fares. She noted that Metro had not significantly restructured fares in 10 years. After hearing from 740 people, the Board reached a compromise fashioned by Chair Molina. Ms. O'Connor reviewed the revised fares. She also noted that the Board instructed staff to aggressively protect and pursue Federal and State funds and tax credits, to analyze 25 specific bus lines for restructuring or consolidation, and to analyze the TAP system for use in alternative fare scenarios. The Board also allocated \$5 million to target the neediest riders for assistance through the Immediate Needs Program or some other countywide program. He noted the next big discussion for MTA will be the FY'08 Budget; at the June meeting the MTA will consider the Call for Projects recommendations; and the Board will have a workshop at the Planning and Programming Committee on June 20, 2007 at 10 AM. She advised that after budget adoption, the MTA will consider the Update to the 2002 Long Range Transportation Plan. She advised that Renee had been promoted to Executive Officer for Transportation Development and Implementation for the Westside and South Bay Cities. She also stated that she had tremendous respect for Chair Molina who had done a great job during a very difficult year and that she hoped to build on her efforts focusing on improving transit services, supporting efficient and cost effective freeway streets and roads improvements, and working toward more liveable communities and a cleaner and greener Los Angeles County.

Mayor Bloom congratulated Ms. O'Connor who will assume the position of Board Chair on July 1, noting this was an important time for all.

Vice Mayor Carol Gross noted that the Service Sector Governance Council strongly supported fare restructuring and would be hosting its Annual Meeting later that day.

(C) Report and Recommendations from the COG Transportation Committee:

Transportation Committee Co-Chairs Briskman and Heilman provided a brief overview of the April Committee meeting. Mayor Heilman also thanked the Executive Director for her sensitive representation of a pointed discussion on the Westside Subway Extension Project.

The April 12, 2007 Transportation Committee Meeting Notes were received and filed as presented, by consensus of the members.

(D) Intergovernmental Relations:

(1) League of California Cities Briefing on State Fiscal/Legislative Issues;

Ann Marie Wallace (League of CA Cities) thanked all cities for participating in the League's legislative Action Day. She recommended contact with legislators to tell them we're waiting for Prop 1B dollars with projects ready to go; she referred to a hand-out on Prop 42 noting there is concern that the formula is being tinkered with; and gave a brief report on pending eminent domain reform adding this item is requested to not be agendized by the cities.

(2) Status of Proposed Real Property Exchange/Development at VA, Army Reserve and Federal Building Sites

Flora Gil Krisiloff (LA County Supervisor Yaroslavsky) reported that the FBI is no longer pursuing development on the Federal Building site; that the 10-acre Army Reserve site project is moving forward with preparation of the NEPA though there is no information about the proposed project to date; and that language that would have prevented development, sale or exchange of the VA property was removed from legislation on the eve the vote because the President was reported ready to veto it. Efforts to protect the site for Veterans will continue.

Ms. Krisiloff advised there's no news on the CARES process and that a meeting was recently held that included LA City Council Member Rosendahl, US House of Representatives member Waxman, Santa Monica City Council Member Shriver and LA County Supervisor Yaroslavsky on the subject. And that a letter was being sent to Secretary Nicholson reminding him of his authority regarding long-term lease of the site.

(3) Pending Legislation: Position Recommendation RE AB 900 (increasing membership on the CTC); update regarding AB 319 (Lieu) Increasing Municipal representation on SCAQMD Board; AB303 (Ducheny) up front zoning; AB 889 (Lieu) Creation of Green Line Authority

Claudette Moody and Jody Litvak advised that AB900 was no longer viable legislation; Ms. Moody reported that AB 319 was moving forward with a current focus of evening up representation in the two sectors; and Ann Marie Wallace provided a handout on SB303(Ducheny).

7. RECEIVE & FILE, DIRECTION RE: CORRESPONDENCE

The following documents were received and filed by consensus of the members:

- (1) March 20, 2007 letter to Assemblyman Ted Lieu from Chair Bloom
- (2) March 20, 2007 letter to Supervisor Yvonne Burke from Chair Bloom

- (3) March 20, 2007 letter to Supervisor Don Knabe from Chair Bloom
- (4) March 20, 2007 letter to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky from Chair Bloom
- (5) April 12, 2007 letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from Chair Bloom
- (6) April 20, 2007 letter to Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina from Westside Transportation Partners
- (7) League of California Cities legislative flier on SB303
- (8) League of CA Cities flier titled "California's Cities Ready to Go!!"

8. EVENT REMINDER AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made and upcoming events noted:

1. Sat. June 2, 2007 from 12-8 PM, 2nd Annual Art Walk in Culver City on Washington Boulevard from Downtown Culver City to LaCienega.
2. The City of Beverly Hills recently adopted an ordinance banning smoking in outdoor dining establishments for one year.
3. A recent meeting with Senator Boxer confirmed her support for Metro Phase I funding being accepted as the required match for Phase II.
4. Summer concert series in various Westside cities were noted.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(A) Items for future agendas:

The following items were added to the September agenda by consensus of the members: 1) Appointment of the COG's 3rd representative to the Westside Central Service Sector Governance Council; and 2) to the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee would be added to the July agenda.

Council Member Heilman also requested the July meeting agenda include discussion of whether the functions of Treasurer and Secretary should stay with one city or should change based on annual election of COG officers. There was no objection to the suggestion.

Council Member Briskman requested the COG formalize a legislative agenda for the COG for 2007-08 and advised that discussion at the Transportation Committee meeting resulted in agreement that an advocacy briefing packet for WSCCOG transportation projects needs to be prepared. Both of these items were referred to the City Managers/LA City Staff group for action.

Scott Miller, new WSCCOG Treasurer requested a September/November agenda item be added for presentation of the 2006-07 WSCCOG Audit. There was no objection to the suggestion.

(B) Tentative future COG meeting dates and locations:

The following dates were confirmed for future meetings:

July 19, 2007	Santa Monica
Sept. 20, 2007	West Hollywood
Nov. 15, 2007	Beverly Hills

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ken Rubin (Southern California Transit Advocates) thanked new Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor for her role in a recent transit oriented forum.

11. ADJOURNMENT TO July 19, 2007 meeting in Santa Monica

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM. The next meeting will be held in Santa Monica on July 19, 2007