

**WESTSIDE CITIES**

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

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WESTSIDE CITIES COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 17, 2008

10:30 AM Strategy Meeting
11:45 AM Lunch
12:15 PM Business Meeting

Hosted By: City of Culver City
Location: Dan Patacchia Room
City Hall, First Floor
9770 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232

10:30 AM STRATEGY MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE:

Beverly Hills: Council Member Linda J. Briskman. Staff: Daniel Cartagena, Lobbyist: Kathleen Van Osten, Ivan Kallick

Culver City: Council Member Scott Malsin and Vice Mayor Carol Gross. Staff: Jerry Fulwood, Steve Cunningham, Shelly Wolfberg, Charles Herbertson, Sol Blumenfeld. Lobbyist: Paul Gonsalves

Santa Monica: Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, Council Member Pam O'Connor (Chair, Metro). Staff: Gordon Anderson, Kate Vernez. Lobbyist: Josh Shaw, Gus Khouri

City of LA: Staff: Jay Greenstein (CD5)

County of LA: Staff: Flora Gil Krisiloff (Supervisor Yaroslavsky)

West Hollywood: Council Member Abbe Land. Staff: Paul Arevalo, Lisa Belsanti. Lobbyist: Helyne Meshar

ON CONFERENCE LINE:

Beverly Hills Lobbyist - June De Hart, Dean McGrath
Culver City Lobbyist - Lynn Jacquez
County of LA Lobbyist - Tim Egan, Steve Palmer
LA County MTA - David S. Kim
City of Los Angeles Lobbyist - Andrew Antwih
Metro Government Relations - Michael Raffi
Metro - Jody Litvak

Other Attendees: Jody Hall Esser (Executive Director/Facilitator)
Juan Camacho (SCAG)

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME

Chair Briskman called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the special morning strategy session.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS, STAFF AND MEMBER JURISDICTION LOBBYISTS PRESENT AND ON LINE.

Chair Briskman initiated self introductions of all present and on the phone.

Chair Briskman called on Jody Hall Esser to provide a brief background for the purpose of the strategy session. She noted that the lobbyists on line and present at the meeting were previously provided copies of the COG's priority transportation projects fact sheets and were asked to present their prognosis of state and federal budgets and potential funding for these projects; and to suggest legislative or other remedies they would recommend that would advance the construction and completion of these projects.

3. OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECURE FUNDING OF WSCCOG PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Chair Briskman called on lobbyists representing Beverly Hills to start the discussion.

June DeHart commented that the projects described in the fact sheets all fit right in with the normal/typical projects lobbyists would pursue. She noted that she had been listening to the Transportation and Infrastructure hearing by the "1909 Commission" and that recommendation number one in the Commissions policy report, a "Federal Vision for Transportation", was "restoration of metropolitan mobility". In the report, LA tops the list in terms of congestion and transit auto pollution. The Commission's work sets the stage for a new SAFE-T-LU concept of transit and congestion/auto pollution. She added that over the objections of some Commissioners, the Commission recommends raising Gas Tax from twenty-five to forty cents over a decade; if there's an effort to increase resources, our projects should bode well. She asked if the projects are included in the draft LRTP. Staff responded regarding project placement in the LRTP.

Dean McGrath commented on the Homeland Security Departments focus, noting their interest in state to city and city to city efforts/projects to deal with threats, example: ISIS. He also commented on federal budget pressures, earmarks and specified spending concerns.

Chair Briskman called on the Chair O'Connor and representatives from METRO. David Kim commented on the \$80 million appropriated for the Gold Line Extension to East LA, and next year's funding for Wilshire Boulevard. He advised that language to allow EXPO Phase I local funding to constitute the local match for Phase II passed the House but not the Senate; that getting this through would be a very uphill battle. He noted that groundwork is being laid to ready support for the Westside Corridor Transit Extension Project and that staff meet with FTA regularly to inform about how project studies are progressing.

Vice Mayor Gross asked how the COG can best help with the EXPO issue: David responded that Diane Watson has been supportive and understands the urgency of the

language. He suggested the COG encourage her to weigh-in with the leadership of the Appropriations Committee. He also recommended getting Henry Waxman more involved. He said Lucille Roybal wants to be helpful (helpful to everybody). June DeHart recommended the COG send talking points and background pieces to all area delegation members.

Lynn Jacquez commented on the Annual Appropriations and Surface Transportation Bills. She noted that Senator Feinstein's '09 strategy is to support projects that show regional coordination and prioritization. She noted such projects will have good measure of success. David Kim added that Feinstein is looking for projects supported by transit agencies, multiple jurisdictions and the county (projects showing regional cooperation).

Kathleen Van Osten commented that transportation continues to be a priority at the state level despite the dismal budget situation. She noted that at this point, Caltrans budget has not been proposed to be cut – it is the only department in this position. A special legislative session has been set to address cuts. She noted the importance of getting Metro to give our projects priority and keep them designated as such. As the budget process continues, she suggested it will be important to keep the state focused on transportation as a priority. She reminded that the new appointment to the CTC is from the LA area, from Pasadena/Burbank.

Paul Gonsalves commented that Kathleen's state budget summary was excellent. He suggested COG member jurisdictions continue to lean on their legislative representatives to protect transit/transportation funding. He suggested a delegation letter be prepared and sent

John Shaw commented that \$1.3B in transit funds were diverted in the current year budget–this may just be the first wave. He noted that to the extent funds are used to balance the federal/state budgets, there will be a ripple effect. He referenced the lawsuit filed and votes in front of the CTC.

Michael Raffi commented on the impact on state funding for new projects and Phase II EXPO. He noted a \$600M hit proposed for higher education versus none for transit may not be able to be sustained.

Gus Khouri commented that the other “budget shoe” has not dropped: foreclosure rates are not expected to bottom out until mid-June. The deficit could get worse. Prop 42 may be revisited and a 10% cut proposed. He referenced the importance and possible project funding through Homeland Security for “projects enhancing security”.

Tim Egan predicted that transportation will be looked at for cuts to balance the state budget; he believes the Governor has not exposed his complete budget strategy—he has purposely held back certain proposed cuts till after Super Tuesday.

Helyne Meshar commented there is a breakdown in regionalism when it comes down to project funding. She said the entire LA delegation, including other COG's must prioritize and support their prioritized transit projects. Only this broad coalition can make the funding picture brighter. The Governor has only fired his opening salvo. She commented that the Governor's priorities are “goods movement” and congestion on highways—not local roads. His concern/focus stops at off-ramps. She strongly recommended the COG be present at hearings later in the month to protect our projects.

She also commented that Assemblyman Feuer is Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee and an important and potentially powerful ally on the Assembly Transportation Committee. Assemblyman Feuer is putting together a package to help local governments to fund their local projects. She recommended the COG look at this legislation.

Steve Palmer recommended the COG be very specific about exactly what we want (support/action, funding) from legislators. Council Member Abbe Land also recommended we include exactly what we have/will be contributing to projects. He recommended the COG follow the 1909 Commission's work closely; make Waxman and Watson vocal allies; get behind a single/priority sub-regional if not regional project; pursue support of a delegation letter involving Chairs or Area COG's; and attend state budget hearings.

Chair Briskman requested the lobbyists provide guidance regarding which specific sessions we should attend. The consultant agreed to provide this information.

Vice Mayor Gross asked Chair O'Connor and David Kim if there was a single message that should be voiced. Pam said that we should strongly endorse and support the Long Range Transportation Plan ("LRTP").

June DeHart asked if the COG's three projects are in the LRTP and how our projects dovetail with priorities in the LRTP. Chair O'Connor explained the funding and distinction between the "strategic" and "constrained" plans/components in the LRTP. Steve Cunningham noted that the I-10/Robertson National Improvement Project is not anywhere in Metro's plan. He also advised that recent ridership information necessitated a technical correction to the I-10 Fact Sheet: Projected ridership has been lowered from 72,000 to 61,000.

It was noted that Representative Watson and others in D.C. do not take our support of a Westside subway extension project (Westside Extension Transit Corridor study) seriously.

Chair Briskman committed to follow up with June DeHart on her upcoming trip to D.C. to revise/improve our message to make it as precise, concise and simple as possible.

Council Member Land asked the lobbyists to advise if there are other pots of money we should be looking to for completion of our capital projects and to support operations—funding for transportation hub and green space; transit oriented development and transit/economic centers.

Josh Shaw commented on Assemblyman Feuer's legislative package noting that it includes three measures: 1) infrastructure financing districts; 2) a legislative clean-up from a prior one-half cent sales tax measure (Murray); and 3) provides for a regional authority city-by-city for carbon emission fees.

Paul Gonsalves noted that the state is short of cash on-hand. He advised Prop 42 funds would likely be pushed back to September and paid without interest. He and Kathleen Van Osten advised that Prop 1C Bond Guidelines are out in Draft and recommended all take a look at them. Helyne Meshar commented that the Governor's budget is just that – that we should not be shy about "pushing back".

Chair Briskman prepared to close the session by providing a brief summary of the lobbyists' recommendations and thanked all for their participation and the wealth of valuable advice provided.

Mayor Pro Tem Bloom commented that homelessness is also a priority and that perhaps the group could reconvene in approximately six months, to focus on that issue.

Council Member Scott Malsin thanked all the lobbyists present and on the conference line, and commented that it had been a very informative session.

4. RECESS TO LUNCH

Chair Briskman thanked all again recessed the meeting for lunch at 11:50 AM

12:15 PM BUSINESS MEETING

5. RECONVENE

Chair Briskman reconvened the meeting at 12:15 PM

IN ATTENDANCE:

Beverly Hills: Council Member Linda J. Briskman. Staff: Daniel Cartagena,
Culver City: Council Member Scott Malsin and Vice Mayor Carol Gross. Staff: Jerry Fulwood, Steve Cunningham, Shelly Wolfberg, Bill LaPointe
Santa Monica: Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, Council Member Pam O'Connor (Chair, Metro). Staff: Gordon Anderson, Kate Vernez.
City of LA: Council Member Bill Rosendahl. Staff: Norman Kulla (CD11), Jay Greenstein (CD5)
County of LA: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Staff: Flora Gil Krisiloff (Supervisor Yaroslavsky)
West Hollywood: Council Member John Heilman, Council Member Abbe Land. Staff: Paul Arevalo, Lisa Belsanti, Christof Schroeder
WSCCOG: Jody Hall Esser (Executive Director)
Elizabeth Calciano, Counsel to the COG

Other Attendees: Laurie Newman (Senator Keuhl); Ellen Isaacs (Assemblyman Feuer); Jody Litvak (Metro); Jessica Kirtchner (SCAG), David Rubinow, Juan Camacho and Darin Chidsey (SCAG); Jason Weiner (Westside Economic Collaborative); Samantha O'Neil (SM Chamber); Scott Harms (Office of LA Co CEO).

6. INTRODUCTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

All present identified themselves. Voting members present: Bloom (Santa Monica); Malsin (Culver City); Rosendahl (City of Los Angeles); and Heilman (West Hollywood).

7. APPROVAL NOVEMBER 15, 2007 MEETING NOTES

Moved by Council Member Malsin and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bloom and agreed by consensus to approve the Meeting Notes of November 15, 2007, as presented.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Council Member Malsin, seconded by Chair Briskman and agreed by consensus to approve the Consent Calendar.

9. NEW BUSINESS

(A) Review of Morning Strategy Session

Chair Briskman and Jody Hall Esser provided a summary of the morning's strategy session. Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Bloom and seconded by Council Member Heilman to refer recommendations to the City Managers/Executive Staff Committee and the COG Executive Director for identification of "next steps".

(B) Review of Proposed WSCCOG Legislative Agenda for 2008

The Executive Director was asked to remind as to the purpose and proposed use of this document. Discussion ensued regarding whether the proposed document was too specific or not specific enough and whether individual members would need to ask their legislative bodies to agree to the proposed platform. Mayor Pro Tem Bloom commented that the issue of homelessness was appropriately highlighted. The item was agreed to be continued to the March meeting of the COG with individually suggested changes/additions to be collected and distributed to all well in advance of the March meeting.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky joined the meeting, was introduced and welcomed as the representative of the County of Los Angeles, the newest member of the WSCCOG.

(C) Recommendation from Alternates to the WSCCOG Governing Board RE Annual Issues Conference

Council Member Abbe Land summarized the Alternates conference call on January 9th, noting the participants' recommendation that "Sustainability" be the topic for the Annual Issues Conference. She advised that the City of Santa Monica has offered to spearhead planning for one of the conference panels (details included with the agenda materials), and that a focus of the conference should be the recommendation for sharing best practices and other opportunities for collaboration between COG members. It was also noted that the conference is proposed to take place prior to July 1st. Vice Mayor Gross noted it was nice that all those participants in the conference call agreed with on the recommended topic. It was also noted that the Alternates volunteered to continue to provide input as program planning proceeds, and that the Executive Director had consulted with Counsel to the COG to ensure this could take place in an approved manner.

By consensus, the Board agreed with the topic and planning recommendations presented for the conference.

(D) Briefing RE Release of Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the RTP

Metro Chair Pam O'Connor and Council Member Abbe Land provided an overview of the purpose and timing for comment on the DRAFT Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Chair O'Connor also referenced the relationship

between the RTP and the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan. She reminded that comments were due on the Draft RTP on February 19th.

The Executive Director advised that staff from member cities jurisdictions were in the process of reviewing the RTP and Draft EIR for this Plan, and proposed that following individual review, the COG submit comments on points agreed by member jurisdictions. By consensus, the Members agreed with this approach for comment and referred follow-up and comment on this item to the Executive Director.

(E) Briefing To Assist Members in Preparing Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) Due March 2008

Elizabeth Calciano, with the firm of Jenkins and Hogin, Counsel to the COG, provided a briefing on the required filing of the State's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700. She distributed a handout to assist the members in completing the form by the deadline, April 1, 2008, and advised that she or Mr. Jenkins would follow-up with specific instructions regarding submission of completed forms.

10. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

(A) December Meeting Notes, Report and Recommendations from the COG Homeless Issues Committee and Related Items

Mayor Pro-Tem Bloom provided an overview of the Homeless issues Committee meeting of December 13, 2007. Vice Mayor Gross advised that the Culver City Council had approved the proposed Upward Bound House project. She thanked the County – especially Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky; the City of Santa Monica and the City of Los Angeles for their financial and other support for this project on appeal from the Planning Commission. Mayor Pro-Tem Bloom congratulated Culver City and noted that every step taken to provide housing for homeless individuals and families is important. Council Member Rosendahl thanked Vice Mayor Gross for her leadership and applauded the Culver City Council's decision; noting that because of the location of the proposed project, he had also received hundreds of nasty emails. Supervisor Yaroslavsky noted that this was a difficult issue with emotions running high. He said he was relieved that the project had been approved and added that despite start-up contributions from the jurisdictions mentioned, it took political will to do the right thing.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky briefed the Board on the background of the County's "Project 50", a project designed to identify the 50 most vulnerable chronic homeless individuals on Skid Row and to envelope them with all the services and support available to get them off the street and into permanent housing. He explained how he learned about a similar successful effort in New York City; that he brought those experienced with the successful NY program to Los Angeles; that he "liberated" County staff to fully apply their experience and skills to support the effort; and that 51 homeless individuals were identified for help. The Supervisor and Mayor Pro-tem Bloom advised that a similar effort was being launched in Santa Monica with a training briefing scheduled for January 31st.

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

Southwest Cities Corridor:

Metro Chair O'Connor advised that on January 16th, the Metro Planning and Programming Committee met with much of the discussion centered on transportation funding and the Long Range Transportation Plan; the Executive Management Committee met earlier on the 17th and discussed legislative and other efforts on these issues; and that all of these discussions would continue at the Metro Board meeting on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

She advised that the Planning and Programming Committee is recommending approval of the official Metro comments on the Regional Transportation Plan. The comments indicate the agency's intention of continuing its work with SCAG staff throughout this process. The communication will also identify, however, that there are currently several projects noted in the constrained plan of the RTP which will not be recommended by Metro staff for the constrained plan of the LRTP. The two processes will somewhat overlap with the RTP being approved first. Metro staff has assured the Board there is precedent for amending the RTP so that the two documents will be reconciled.

Chair O'Connor noted that as reported in Report #13 of the Metro's Planning and Programming Committee, there has not been a federal or state gas tax increase in many years and those rates are flat. There are declining funds in the federal gas tax account, and estimates are the funds will be totally depleted by FY2009 or FY2010. Increases in the costs of energy and commodities have been significant--between 2004 and 2006, construction costs have increased by 80 %. Also, for every dollar of maintenance deferred today, we will spend \$20 in maintenance costs in ten year's time. It is also estimated that for FY '09 and for several years thereafter, sales tax revenues will grow at approximately 3 %, rather than the previously anticipated 4 % growth. In FY '09 that is a difference of \$16 million less in revenues.

She reported that there are efforts now to try to streamline processes at the federal level with the report of the 1909 Commission calling for speeding up the New Starts approval process and possibly eliminating all current transportation programs in favor of new programs to address current transportation needs. There is also renewed discussion of a possible federal gas tax increase, though many are recognizing that gas tax does not now meet all of our needs and may diminish over time. Locally, we are looking at some streamlining processes at Metro and discussion is beginning on a potential local funding mechanism to increase transportation funding in Los Angeles County.

Chair O'Connor reported that The Planning and Programming Committee is recommending approval of the constrained portion of the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan. The constrained component of the LRTP is the funded plan for the next 30 years with the projects in the plan known as the baseline. In August 2007, staff was estimating approximately \$4 billion being

available beyond the baseline funding for new projects. Due to the revised forecast for incoming revenues and dramatically increased construction costs, there is no anticipated funding available for new projects in the proposed update.

To deal with the this bad news, Staff had originally proposed a priority strategic plan list of projects, but withdrew that proposal and had a list of both long-standing projects with ongoing studies, alongside what could be termed mostly as interesting transportation project concepts. By next week, it is anticipated that the Board will have a smaller list of formal strategic projects which could be in line for new funding if it becomes available. If the Board approves sending the update out for comment at the January 24th Board meeting, it is anticipated the Plan will be formally released for public comment in March for 45 days. Comments would then be responded to by staff and a recommendation would be forwarded to the Board in June.

Chair O'Connor urged the COG to:

1. Continue to indicate support for the Westside Cities baseline projects
2. Indicate support for identifying viable projects from the strategic list which could move forward in the process if funding becomes available, especially those projects which will serve the Westside Cities
3. Share the COG's support at the January 24th Metro Board meeting through letter(s) during the comment period, and at the June Metro Board meeting.

Sector Issues:

Metro Chair O'Connor reported that there are proposed service changes for the Westside. There are numerous public hearings on those proposed service changes including at the regular Westside/Central Governance Sector meeting on February 13, 5 p.m. at the La Cienega Tennis Club. There will also be an all sector meeting on Saturday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m. at Metro Headquarters.

Westside Subway Extension Project:

There are two elected official meetings to discuss findings on this study. The first is on January 23, 10:00 a.m. at Beverly Hills City Hall; the second is on January 25, 10:00 a.m. at Los Angeles City Hall. It is necessary for you to RSVP for parking at LA City Hall.

There are three public meetings on the study's findings: January 31, LACMA West from 6-8 p.m.; February 5 at Westwood Presbyterian Church from 6-8 p.m.; and, February 6, at Plummer Park from 6-8 p.m.

Other:

On January 23, at noon, Chair O'Connor will have the third Live Chat. Participants can log into Metro.net to access the chat. The focus will be on congestion reduction pricing and other congestion reducing and funding ideas.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky expressed his concern that the EXPO line be continued all the way to Santa Monica. He noted the current controversy relating to the line as it passes near Dorsey High School. He said completion of EXPO is the one thing all agree on and that it must be kept in the base line, and if we ever go for a sales tax increase again, we must make sure our project will be funded.

Councilmember Briskman noted that based upon a recent trip to D.C., she learned that Metro's Congestion Pricing strategies are very important to the Fed's; also that the COG needs to be visible and speak up when good and bad ideas come forward.

Conversation ensued with the general conclusion that growing the pot of revenue to support transportation projects may not be realistic in the near term.

Jon Heilman commented on the significance of the EXPO line over run. He asked whether a pedestrian over pass had been considered at Dorsey High; commented on the sales tax pool revealing highest support for it on the Westside; and commented on the potential need for individual cities to propose/pass sales tax measures to support transportation projects.

Steve Cunningham, Director of Transportation, City of Culver City was asked whether the I-10/Robertson/National project was in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He commented that it was not included at this time. It was noted that the project was listed in SCAG's RTP which is important. Inclusion in the RTP allows for the expenditure of federal grant funds on preliminary studies. It was further noted that any reconciliation of projects between the RTP and the LRTP should not result in exclusion of this project from the RTP. Chair Briskman was authorized to send a letter to the Metro Board requesting that the project be included in the LRTP.

(C) Intergovernmental Relations

No representative was present/no report was given.

It was agreed that a letter of commendation be prepared for Ann Marie Wallace for her service to the COG.

11. RECEIVE/ FILE AND PROVIDE DIRECTION RE: CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Seven Steps for Completing the FPPC Form 700 prepared by Elizabeth Calciano and dated 1/17/08.

(B) Letter from Ann Marie Wallace advising of her resignation with the League of California Cities. By consensus the Board directed the executive Director to prepare a commendation for Ms. Wallace for signature by the Chair.

12. EVENT REMINDER AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. DISCUSSION RE CALENDARING OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(A) **Tentatively Scheduled Future Board Meeting Dates and Locations:**

March 20, 2008	City of Los Angeles
May 15, 2008	County of Los Angeles
July 17, 2008	City of Santa Monica
September 18, 2008	West Hollywood
November 11, 2008	Beverly Hills

(B) **Items for future agendas**

The following items were agreed to be agendaized for future Board meetings:

March 2008:

1. SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan
2. Announcement: Budget and member Dues to be Approved at May Annual Meeting
3. Review of Proposed Revised WSCCOG Work program
4. Review and Approval of Revised Legislative Agenda for WSCCOG for 2008-09.
5. Appointment to the Three Committee Assignments to be vacated by Vice Mayor Carol Gross who will retire from the Culver City Council in April.

May 2008

1. Election of Officers
2. Committee Assignments
3. Establishment of Member Dues for 2008-09
4. Approval of Budget for 2008-09
5. Approval of Work Plan for 2008-09

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ellen Isaacs, Field Deputy for Assembly member Mike Feuer, introduced herself and asked for the COG's support for ACA 10 that would lower the vote threshold for the approval of bonds and any tax increase associated with these bonds for local transportation projects from a two-thirds vote of the people to a 55% vote of the people.

13. ADJOURNMENT -

The Chair thanked all for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.