



**WESTSIDE CITIES**

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

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WESTSIDE CITIES COG**

## Meeting Notes

THURSDAY September 21, 2006  
12:00 NOON Regular Meeting

**City of Santa Monica  
RAND Corporation Headquarters  
"Forum 1224"  
1776 Main Street  
Santa Monica, California**

**Present:**

- Beverly Hills:** Council Member Linda J. Briskman. Staff: Tony Dahlerbruch.
- Culver City:** Council Member Carol Gross. Staff: Steve Cunningham, Bill LaPointe and Shelly Wolfberg.
- Santa Monica:** Council Member Richard Bloom, Council Member Kevin McKeown, Council Member Pam O'Connor. Staff: Gordon Anderson, Ed Edelman, Candace Tysdal, Julie Rusk and Don Patterson.
- West Hollywood:** Council Member Abbe Land. Staff: Paul Arevalo and David Wilson.
- Los Angeles:** Council Member Bill Rosendahl. Staff: Norman Kulla (Council District 11), and Michael Karsch (LA LAO).
- Other Attendees:** Jody Hall Esser, facilitator, Mike Jenkins, (WSCCOG Attorney), Jim Kennedy (Representative Jane Harmon), Laurie Newman (Senator Sheila Kuehl), Ron Fisher (Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke), Karly Katona (Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke), Flora Gil Krisiloff (Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky), Jody Litvak (Metro), Darin Chidsey (SCAG), Ann Marie Wallace (League of CA Cities), Jason Weiner (Westside Economic Collaborative), Bruce Rankin (Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition).

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Bloom called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM and introduced Iao Katagiri, Deputy Vice President for External Affairs and Director of Community Relations for the RAND Corporation. Ms. Katagiri welcomed all to the facility and called attention to handouts provided regarding RAND and upcoming community events sponsored by the corporation.

**2. IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBER PRESENT: DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBER FROM PARTICIPATING CITIES**

The following individuals identified themselves as the voting representative from their respective cities for the meeting of September 2, 2006:

- Beverly Hills – Council Member/WSCCOG Vice Chair Briskman (Delegate)
- Culver City – Council Member Gross (Alternate)
- Santa Monica – Council Member/WSCCOG Chair Bloom (Delegate)
- West Hollywood – Council Member Land (Alternate)

(City of Los Angeles Delegate, Councilman Bill Rosendahl was yet to arrive at this point in the meeting.)

Chair Bloom suggested this item will be combined with self-introductions for future agendas.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF JODY HALL ESSER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD AND APPROVAL OF AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE APPOINTMENT.**

Michael Jenkins provided an overview of agenda materials relating to this agenda item.

Moved by Gross, seconded by Land to appoint Jody Hall Esser as Executive Director of the WSCCOG for a period of one year, effective November 1, 2006, and authorize execution of the proposed employment contract setting for terms and conditions of the appointment.

Chair Bloom called for a roll call vote:

- Briskman            Yes
- Gross                Yes
- Bloom                Yes
- Land                 Yes

The motion was unanimously approved.

(City of Los Angeles Delegate, Councilman Bill Rosendahl was yet to arrive at this point in the meeting.)

Mrs. Esser thanked the members for the privilege to continue to work with the COG. Chair Bloom welcomed Mrs. Esser as the first Executive Director.

**4. APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2006 MEETING NOTES**

Chair Bloom called on Mrs. Esser who reviewed recommended corrections to the draft meeting notes:

- Page four, paragraph two, line two: strike “with votes eligible due to voting members being present,” and insert “with the appropriate voting member casting the votes. Chair Bloom”;
- Page two, paragraph three, line four: strike the first word on that line (“discuss”);
- Page six, paragraph two, line eight: insert “to” before the last word on that line (“make”); and
- Page six, paragraph two: strike the last two sentences in that paragraph.

Moved by Briskman, seconded by Land to approve the minutes as corrected Chair Bloom called for a roll call vote. (Los Angeles Delegate/Council Member Rosendahl joined the meeting.)

Briskman	Yes
Gross	Yes
Rosendahl	Yes
Bloom	Yes
Land	Yes

The motion was unanimously approved.

## 5. COG BY-LAWS AMENDMENT AND LOGISTICS

- (A) Authorization to contract with the firm of Mayer Hoffman McCann to perform an independent audit of accounting and administration of WSCCOG funds as required by California Government Code Section 6505.**

Chair Bloom explained that Steve Stark had resigned his position with the City of Santa Monica and was now the Finance Director for the City of Pasadena and introduced Candace Tysdal, Acting City Treasurer and Acting Treasurer to the WSCCOG. Ms. Tysdal noted that a proposal had been secured for required audit services in the amount of \$3200 for the 2006-07 fiscal year and requested a motion to authorize contracting with the firm of Mayer Hoffman McCann. Council Member Gross asked if it was possible to include language to clarify that there were no COG expenses during the 2005-06 fiscal year. Ms. Tysdal said that would be requested of the auditor.

Motion by Council Member Gross, seconded by Council Member Land to authorize the Treasurer to execute an engagement letter with Mayer Hoffman McCann, P.C., to perform the annual audit for Fiscal Year 2006-07. The motion passed unanimously.

- (B) Adoption of City of Santa Monica Investment Policy as the WSCCOG Investment Policy for the 2006-07 WSCCOG fiscal year.**

Ms. Tysdal noted that The Westside Cities Council of Governments Board members previously agreed to utilize the Investment Policy of the city of the current WSCCOG Treasurer, and that as required, funds will be invested in accordance with California Government Code Section 53601. This state code requires the WSCCOG funds to be invested in a manner that will safely preserve portfolio principal, provide adequate liquidity to meet the WSCCOG’s cash flow needs, and optimize returns while

conforming to the WSCCOG By-Laws and to all federal, state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds. She noted that a copy of the City of Santa Monica's investment Policy was included with the agenda materials.

Moved by Council Member Land, seconded by Council Member Gross to receive and file and adopt the City of Santa Monica's Investment Policy for WSCCOG Fiscal Year 2006-07. The motion passed unanimously.

**(C) Authorization to purchase the required surety bond on officers and persons having charge of, handle or have access to WSCCOG property as required by WSCCOG By-laws.**

Ms. Tysdal noted that the WSCCOG By-Laws require that officers or persons who have charge of, handle, or have access to any property of the WSCCOG be bonded; the Treasurer has received a quote for a Public Official Bond with the ISU Coastal Insurance Agency, Western Surety Company, in the amount of \$100,000; and that the cost of this bond is \$500 annually.

Moved by Land, seconded by Gross to authorize the Treasurer proceed with the purchase of the required bond. The motion passed unanimously.

**(D) Direction to prepare a By-laws amendment to provide for representation when unusual circumstances result in neither a city's Delegate or Alternate being able to attend a meeting.**

Mr. Jenkins noted that on July 20, 2006, board members expressed the desire to potentially amend the By-laws to provide for appointment of a second/temporary alternate should both the designated Delegate and Alternate be unable to attend a COG meeting. He advised if that if known sufficiently in advance, a City Council could take action appoint a temporary representative to accommodate circumstances where Council action was not possible, direction for preparation of an amendment was suggested.

Council Member Land commented that unavoidable conflicts were more likely to be last minute situations and therefore advance formal action by a City Council would be impractical. Vice Chair Briskman stated her belief that the By-laws should accommodate cities having voting representation at all meetings. Council Member Gross agreed.

Council Member Rosendahl advised it would likely be difficult for the City of Los Angeles to arrange for a third Council Member to attend a meeting should he or Council Member Weiss, the currently designated Alternate from the City of Los Angeles, be unavailable. In such a case, he noted his preference would be to have his chief of staff or other high level staff member vote/represent LA. Council Member Gross commented that from inception the plan has always been to allow only elected officials to vote to encourage their attendance and participation. Council Member Land responded that she would like to think an item would be held over should an affected city be unable to send a representative to discuss or vote on a sensitive or controversial matter.

Moved by Gross, seconded by Land to direct counsel to the WSCCOG to craft an amendment to the By-laws such that a City Council may designate a second/temporary alternate from that member city's elected officials to represent its interests, should both the appointed Delegate and Alternate to the WSCCOG be unable to attend a COG meeting. The motion passed 4 to1 with Rosendahl voting against the motion.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS 2006 WORK PROGRAM / PRESENTATIONS**

- (A) Report and Recommendations from the COG Homeless Committee on advocacy regarding regional homeless solutions/initiatives; Los Angeles County Plan; Santa Monica Homeless Community Court; Los Angeles City Council Homeless Committee Actions; Inter-agency coordination/continued advocacy of proposal for therapeutic housing for homeless veterans on the West Los Angeles VA campus; Discussion of SSI advocacy program.**

Chair Bloom provided an overview of the Homeless Issues Committee report included with the agenda materials and an update on the County Homeless Plan and funding in the 2006 County budget; discussion on how the Homeless Court will function; SSI Advocacy program relating to benefits for homeless individuals; and a presentation by a representative from the Legal Aid Foundation. He advised that the hospital medical providers are getting together to discuss outcomes and analyze results from the service study including costs or service and numbers of patients.

Flora Gil Krisiloff provided a brief report on the status of the VA property. In July 2006, Senator Feinstein authored legislation which calls for the 1998 Congressionally mandated land use Master Plan for the WLA VA to be completed prior to the adoption of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) plan. Senator Feinstein inserted the language into the FY 2007 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill. She also advised that the Army has agreed to complete a full EIR which means additional time, process and alternatives will be forthcoming.

Ed Edelman advised that the LAHSA Board will announce their new Executive Director on 9/22.

Council Member Rosendahl congratulated Ms. Gil Krisiloff on the success of County efforts and noted his hope that a master plan be approved during the upcoming legislative session. He announced an ad hoc committee meeting on homeless issues with service providers on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 AM, and invited his colleagues to attend and participate. Also that closed session discussion was planned for later that day on the tents downtown and on side streets at the LA and Santa Monica borders. He advised that Mayor Villaraigosa had added \$50M to LA's homeless efforts for a total of a \$100M commitment. This plus a November ballot measure would mean \$1Billion for this effort; however, there are 8 or 9 competing bond measures on the ballot.

Chair Bloom commented on the good these dollars can do if they are translated into housing units on the street.

Flora Gil Krisiloff advised that implementation for use of the County's committed \$100M is on the Board agenda for Tuesday and thanked all for their input on use.

Council Member Land commented on the phenomenal amount of public attention currently be focused on homeless issues/funding. She urged fellow Board Members to do what they can to support LA's bond measure. She also noted that a repeat of last year's Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) program would be repeated later in the year and that she will provide details when available.

Chair Bloom commented that efforts and services to address homeless issues must be provided in all cities.

Mr. Edelman noted that with the support of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the Santa Monica Community Court pilot program should begin in November and be fully implemented within a year.

Council Member Rosendahl commented that funding for another 500 beds will be presented to his colleagues shortly.

Council Member Gross announced that with the assistance of Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky, land will be purchased on a site in Culver City abutting the LA/Culver City boundary line, for development of a homeless shelter for families.

Council Member McKeown announced that on Tuesday evening, the Santa Monica Council would take a position supporting the statewide infrastructure bond issue. He urged the other member COG cities to do likewise. Vice Chair Briskman noted support was on the Beverly Hills Council agenda for Tuesday as well. Council Members Gross and Land advised the cities of Culver City and West Hollywood had already adopted resolutions of support.

**(B) Update on Westside Transit Issues including Efforts to Modify/Influence Funding for Exposition Light Rail; Timeline for Engineering and Environmental Consulting Services for Expo Phase 2; Above Grade Separation at Washington/National; the Westside Subway Extension; Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan and Call for Projects; Informational discussion and public education strategy regarding State Transportation Infrastructure Bond Issues.**

Vice Chair Briskman advised a copy of the Transportation Committee report was included with the agenda materials. She noted this Committee continues to grow now including regular representation from Cedars Sinai and UCLA. She advised the Westside Subway Extension is now called the "Purple Line" and the Committee is exploring various actions to support it. She advised HR 4653 (Waxman) was approved by the House; now the push is to have the Senate approve it before June. She asked every city to have their mayor send a letter to Boxer and Feinstein on this important legislation. She added the Committee will consider the need to recommend the COG

hire a lobbyist, advocate or PR firm to help craft the COG's transportation projects funding message.

Steve Cunningham advised that the EXPO Board of Directors approved a plan including \$400K for the above grade crossing in Culver City.

Pam O'Connor noted that the 2007 Metro Budget includes \$100K to study Red Line route alternatives.

Vice Chair Briskman commented that the COG needs to quickly put together a coalition to support the Purple Line; Supervisor Antonovich and other state/federal representatives want a share of any/all funding available for their transportation projects. She added that the City of Beverly Hills is forming its own Westside Transit Committee, and suggested other WSCCOG cities do likewise.

Council Member Gross suggested that advocacy for Expo Phase II is important, including contact with all Metro Board Members. She added it is important the COG be clear and careful about its project priorities: Purple and EXPO are not mutually exclusive projects. She suggested members make use of the ridership numbers.

Council Member Land commented that an advocacy proposal is critical, one that would include actions most likely to influence the decision makers. She suggested talking to Pam O'Connor's fellow Board Members, enlisting the support of business people and forming a Friends of Purple Line like the successful Friends of EXPO group. She suggested this may mean hiring someone or designating city staff members to support this Friends of Purple Line effort. Council Member O'Connor added that if ridership and the merits of a project got things built we would be riding the red line today.

Council Member Rosendahl advised the Mayor Villaraigosa was in Washington DC last week and met with Congressman Dryer. He came away with the sense from his meetings there that EXPO can be funded over the next 7-9 years and wants a relationship to the Red Line/Purple Line. There is a Bond Task Force for the City of LA that will be sensitive to the WSCCOG. Council Member Rosendahl commented that the South Bay COG, Jane Harmon, Ted Lieu and the City of Los Angeles worked hard on the Green Line funding and thanks to Supervisors Burke, Knabe and Yaroslavsky, efforts are continuing to get the Green Line to LAX. He also advised he had an opportunity to ride the Mag Lev train on a recent trip to China and that such a train might make sense for long distance use here. Example: a route from Anaheim to Ontario in support of direct flights from China to Ontario.

Jody Litvak commented that the Mobility 21 meeting held in Culver City the previous week had been a success. 300 people attended—standing room only. She expressed thanks to the staff from the Westside cities that put together hand out materials on a moment's notice, and expressed special thanks to the City of Culver City for logistical support.

**(C) MTA Southwest Cities Corridor Report**

Council Member/Metro 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair O'Connor announced that Metro has earned the 2006 Outstanding Public Transportation System award for large transit properties given annually by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

She advised that The Metro Board of Directors recently approved the initiation of a 2007 Call for Projects, the first since 2001. Projects approved from local, state and federal sources as a result of this Call will be funded over a six year period from 2008-2013. The application form will be approved in October; projects must be submitted in January; evaluations will start in February and preliminary recommendations available in June.

She noted that at its September meeting, the Board will consider a cooperative agreement with LA County to extend the Wilshire bus lanes to the area between Federal and Veteran Avenues.

She advised that she recently met with Sandra Beshue, Deputy FTA Administrator to share the need for federal funding for Expo Phase II and for counting Phase I local/state funding as the match for those funds.

She also advised that the Metro Board recently approved a multi-faceted program to address the significant shortage of bus drivers. There are currently 300 positions vacant. This program includes a marketing campaign, community outreach efforts, and has partnered with local colleges, training and employment agencies to recruit interested job-seekers. The program also includes a five-week bridge program to provide training in English, math, critical thinking and time management.

**(D) Intergovernmental Relations – League of California Cities Briefing on State Fiscal/Legislative Issues and League of California Cities Annual Conference; Status of proposed real property exchange of the West Los Angeles U.S. Army Reserve Center and new FBI office development.**

Ann Marie Wallace thanked all for their support on positions/issues of mutual benefit/interest to member cities and the League. She noted the annual conference in San Diego was very successful and included a session for coastal cities to explore ways to work more collaboratively with the Coastal Commission and the third annual meeting of COG representatives. A follow-up meeting with Southern California COG representatives is planned to explore issues of mutual interest. She noted that HR5252, the federal telecommunications bill, was still in play. She suggested thanks be directed to Senators Boxer and Feinstein noting League preference for the Senate version of this bill. She expressed regret that the League and City of Santa Monica ended up on opposite sides of AB1322; Chair Bloom said the City understood.

Council Member Gross asked the members take a look at information provided by Culver City resident Mr. Neil Rubenstein regarding exempting veterans from paying fees at curbside meters and municipal structures. Member Gross also advised that the Cities' representative to the Regional Water Quality Control Board is looking for support



to fund a part-time position to liaison with cities she represents on the Board. Council Member Land suggested Member Gross request she put this request in writing.

## **7. RECEIVE & FILE, DIRECTION RE: CORRESPONDENCE**

Motion by Chair Bloom, seconded by Council Member Land to receive and file the sample HR 5252 letter, resolution and fact sheet provided by Ann Marie Wallace representing the League of California Cities. The motion passed unanimously.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Esser reminded of the following scheduled events:

- (A) Expo Ground Breaking – September 29, 2006 8:30 AM  
Location: The ground breaking site is located on the Exposition Right-of-Way, 3 blocks west of Crenshaw, at Wellington Road

Steve Cunningham noted this was an invitation only event due to parking limitations.

- (B) Creating Livable Boulevards on the Westside  
October 6, 2006  
The Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood

It was noted that Mayor and COG Delegate Heilman will welcome participants on behalf of the City and that Vice Chair Briskman will welcome participants on behalf of the COG as Chair Bloom will be unable to attend.

- (C) Westside Economic Summit  
November 17, 2006  
RAND Corporation Headquarters, Santa Monica

Jason Weiner provided additional comment on this event.

- (D) Other Announcements
  - (1) Council Member Land invited all the attend the City of West Hollywood Housing Summit to take place on December 4, 2006 at 6 PM at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium.
  - (2) Council Member Gross expressed her thanks for the attendance of staff representing County Supervisors and members of Congress. Chair Bloom echoed this sentiment on behalf of the COG.

## **9. DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chair inquired if any member wanted to propose items for future agendas. Council Member Land suggested a discussion be agendized regarding conducting future meetings by video/teleconference. No other future agenda items were suggested.

Prior to the November meeting, the members were asked to review the suggested 2007 COG meeting dates included with the agenda materials so that 2007 dates can be confirmed.

Vice Chair Briskman noted that the November meeting will take place at the Beverly Hills Water Treatment Plant.

## **10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair inquired if any individual present wished to address the COG on any matter. No one responded.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:43 PM, the Chair adjourned the meeting to November 16, 2006 in Beverly Hills.