

**FINAL**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT/ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
April 12, 2023  
In Person  
Teleconference Meeting via Zoom or by Phone**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM Pacific Daylight Time. A quorum (7 voting members out of 12 filled seats) was not reached; thus, action items were not taken by the Board.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES**

Voting Board of Directors were present (listed by agency and position on the Board):

1. Airport Authority – Hon. Frank Quintero, Director
2. City of Huntington Park – Hon. Karina Macias, Director
3. City of Cudahy – Hon. Jose R. Gonzalez, Vice Chair (remote)
4. County of Los Angeles Supervisor Hahn’s Office – Viviana Gomez, Alt.
5. City of Maywood - Ms. Angelina Martinez, Director (remote)

Eco-Rapid Transit Staff:

8. Eric Shen, Executive Director
9. Bruno Naulls, Community Planner (remote)
10. Thais Alves, Deputy General Counsel
11. Kathryn Morrison, Administrative Services Manager

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

**ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR**

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

- a) **Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2023**
- b) **Treasurer’s Report and Warrant Register dated March 31, 2023**

**MOTION:** No motion was made due to lack of quorum.

**ITEM 6 – WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH PROJECT (WSAB) PROJECT – CORRIDOR GOVERNANCE PLAN, FINAL DRAFT, PLAN DISCUSSION**

Executive Director Shen announced the completion of the final draft of the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Corridor Governance Plan. Presentation to be focused on the background, approaches, and options. Formal action on the preferred governance model to be taken by the Board on the regular meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Bruno Naulls, Community Planner at Eco-Rapid Transit, provided a brief background on the presentation. LA Metro awarded the City of Artesia a \$180,000 grant to create a Governance Plan building upon the Transit Oriented Development Strategic Implementation Plan for the WSAB Project in September 2021. Ms. Karen Lee is the Project Manager for the grant. HR&A Advisors was hired for the overall structure of the Plan and the Steer Group was hired to address corridor-wide parking challenges. An advisory group comprised of corridor cities (Huntington park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Cerritos, Downey, Maywood, South Gate) was also formed to discuss possible governance structures and areas of concern. The final plan to be brought forth to the Board at the next regular meeting for final acceptance and approval. Deadline for the project is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Jane Carlson of HR&A Advisors introduced the Plan. The full version of the Governance Plan included in the Agenda Package. The WSAB Strategic Implementation Plan was first completed by HR&A Advisors in 2008, which focused on corridor-wide recommendations. HR&A and Eco-Rapid Transit met with corridor cities to understand opportunities or challenges and analyzed case studies to generate a proposed Governance Plan.

Sarah McMinimy and Arushi Chopra of the Steer Group discussed an integrated approach to parking management that is cohesive with the entirety of the corridor. Key opportunities include focus on shared parking resources and corridor-wide parking strategies.

The priorities for the Governance Entity was further discussed. They identified policy opportunities connecting the priorities of equitable community development, density mitigation, and workforce development. They also discussed mobility and traffic management on a corridor-wide basis. Focus areas the Governance structure could address include Economic Development, Parking and Transportation Coordination, and Corridor Coordination. Case studies analyzed focusing on the three focus areas included the I-5 JPA, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, and the Metropolitan Council in Minnesota. Overall takeaways from the case studies were the importance of shared goals, incentivizing participation, supplementing staff, and maintaining transparency. Further case study analyses concluded that the I-5 JPA model would be a successful model for the WSAB governance committees and boards to emulate. The three main entities that comprise the JPA (technical advisory, policy board, administration) work together to protect the interests of member communities. The parking and mobility case studies focused on the approaches of various cities to optimize the cities' resources.

They discussed the issues that existing stakeholders such as Eco-Rapid Transit, Gateway Cities COG, and Metro would have in addressing policy issues. Two alternatives for a governance entity were introduced. First, a new independent entity modelled after the I-5 JPA, to be overseen by an Executive Director. Second alternative recommended to be a governance entity within Eco-Rapid Transit. A WSAB Committee/Fund, Technical Advisory Group, Parking Commission/Authority to be established along with a WSAB Manager. Coordination with external entities would continue. Additional funding to be secured by Eco-Rapid Transit and the WSAB Manager.

Overarching concerns for parking identified included reducing demand for parking, ensuring parking availability, reducing parking related impacts of a new rail system, and optimizing parking distribution. Collaboration and equitability were also a point of importance for member cities. Coordinated parking management would ensure that costs and risks are shared. The coordinated parking management team could be created through a subcommittee or a parking authority.

The presentation was opened to questions and comments from the Board.

Director Quintero (Airport Authority) asked if the member cities not present would be able to access the presentation. Executive Director Shen replied that the team will continue with outreach efforts. Mr. Naulls (Eco-Rapid Transit) recommended that the recorded meeting and report be sent to the Board and staff.

Director Quintero (Airport Authority) expressed his leaning towards the creation of a new JPA. He also asked for clarification on density mitigation. Jane Carlson (HR&A) replied that cities had concerns on patterns of new development that would occur as a result of the train line. Density mitigation would identify where and what kind of development could occur.

Director Macias (Huntington Park) expressed her preference towards the first governance option of a new independent entity modelled after the I-5 JPA. She specifically noted the importance of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Steve Foster of Huntington Park noted that the public works directors and engineers of the TAC aided greatly in the decision-making process. He also expressed concerns on the creation of a parking committee, as it could be incorporated into the TAC.

Ms. Gomez asked for clarification on the role of Eco-Rapid Transit if a new JPA (Option 1) were to be established. Executive Director Shen replied that Eco-Rapid Transit would continue its advocating efforts, but the role of ERT to be further discussed by the Board. She also noted the importance of multimodal approaches to mitigate parking demand. Sarah McMinimy (Steer Group) noted that potential demand-based strategies to parking focusing on multimodal alternatives to be presented in the next Board meeting. Jane Carlson (HR&A) expressed the need to look at parking mitigation and multimodal transportation on a corridor-wide basis.

Director Quintero (Airport Authority) commented on the City of Glendale's Downtown Specific Plan and Mobility study discussed in the presentation. He noted the success in mitigating traffic issues despite the increased housing units built. Director Macias (Huntington Park) asked for clarification on what kinds of housing units were built. Director Quintero replied that housing supply was a combination of affordable housing. He also noted that downzoning areas of Glendale also aided in traffic mitigation.

Vice Chair Gonzalez further opened the meeting to comments from the rest of the Board. Director Martinez (Maywood) commented via chat that she appreciates the accounting for equal representation that HR&A Advisors and The Steer Group took in their processes.

Executive Director Shen expressed that information provided at the meeting will be shared with member cities and staff for input. He hopes the Board will be able to decide on a general direction on the options presented during the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice Chair Gonzalez expressed the importance of Board member attendance to ensure that all member cities have representation.

**MOTION:** No motion was made due to lack of quorum.

**ITEM 7 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S VERBAL REPORT**

Executive Director Shen first thanked the Cities of Cudahy and Paramount for responding to the advancement of membership dues. He thanked the Board for responding to inquiries on the meeting and thanked Administrative Services Manager Kathryn Morrison (Eco-Rapid Transit) and General Counsel Thais Alves on aiding with compliance efforts.

He reminded that all future meetings to be held primarily in person. Exceptions for attending via teleconference permitted under the original Brown Act teleconferencing rules or under the AB 2449 “just cause” or “emergency circumstances” exemption.

He lastly informed the Board that the transition of financial oversight responsibilities with the City of South Gate was completed. The monthly register and draft treasurer report reviews prepared by contracted accountant Ms. Toni Penn are reviewed by the City of South Gate effective April 1, 2023.

**ITEM 8 – VICE CHAIR’S COMMENTS**

No further remarks were made by the Vice Chair.

**ITEM 9 – ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Next meeting to be held on May 10th, 2023 at the Gateway City Council of Government Clearwater building.


**ITEM 10 - ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM Pacific Daylight Time.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Secretary

Approved:

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Chair