

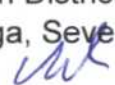





**NB-21**

**Date:** September 9, 2008

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Council Member Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District   
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District   
Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District   
Vice Mayor Val Lerch, Ninth District 

**Subject:** **AGENDA ITEM: Election of Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board Member from the Southeast / Long Beach Sector Subcommittee**

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The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is responsible for the continuous improvement of an efficient and effective transportation system for Los Angeles County. It serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. Recognizing that no one form of transit can solve urban congestion problems, the MTA's multimodal approach uses a variety of transportation alternatives to meet the needs of the highly diverse populations in the region. The Southeast / Long Beach Sector Representative, Council Member Bonnie Lowenthal, resigned from this position effective September 1, 2008 leaving a vacancy on the MTA Board.

The MTA is the lead agency on many projects affecting the City of Long Beach, including the I-170 Major Corridor Environmental Impact Report/Study. It is in the City's best interest to nominate a Long Beach representative – that will be voted on by the Southeast / Long Beach Sector Subcommittee – to fill the vacancy. We would like to recommend Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga to be the region's representative on the MTA Board of Directors.

**Recommended Action: Approve nomination of Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga as the City's candidate to represent the Southeast / Long Beach Sector Subcommittee.**

Attachment: MTA Board Member Election Process

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**MTA Board Member Election Process  
Southeast/Long Beach Sector**

- Current term expires January 2009
- City Selection Committee will meet on the first Thursday of December (assuming a quorum) to elect the MTA Director from the candidate(s) forwarded by the Southeast/Long Beach Sector Subcommittee. (The date of the City Selection Committee drives the entire election process.)
- The Southeast/Long Beach Subcommittee will meet no less than 15 days or more than 35 days prior to the meeting of the City Selection Committee. This year, the City Selection Committee meeting date in December would be December 4, meaning that the Sector Subcommittee meeting would need to take place between October 30 and November 19. (Cities vote by weighted vote at the Sector Subcommittee meeting. A quorum is a majority of cities in both number and weighted vote.)
- There must be at least 14 days notice given before the meeting of the Sector Subcommittee. The notice is sent by the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office (which serves as Secretary to the City Selection Committee) to the Mayor and City Manager of each of the 26 cities in the Sector (all Gateway Cities members except Montebello make up the Southeast/Long Beach Sector).
- Given the above timetable, the process of the regular election of the MTA Board Member will begin, with the mailing of the notice of a Sector Subcommittee meeting, in mid to late October.

NOTE: The process described above was established by the State Legislature in the legislation which created the MTA and which designated the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee as the appointing authority for the four regional city members of the MTA Board of Directors. The office that is responsible for the administrative tasks related to the election process is the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors in its capacity as staff to the City Selection Committee. This summary is provided by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments to our member cities for informational purposes, with the understanding that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments has no formal role in the election process.

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
September 3, 2008

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**BONNIE LOWENTHAL**  
COUNCIL MEMBER - 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

CITY HALL 562-570-6919  
FAX 562-570-8560  
TTY 562-570-8126

August 19, 2008

Hon. Ann Bayer  
President  
Gateway Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Blvd  
Paramount CA 90723

Dear Councilmember Bayer,

I regret to inform you that I must tender my resignation as the Gateway Council of Government's representative to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, effective September 1, 2008.

Over the last three years as your representative, we have accomplished much together to benefit the Gateway Cities area through my participation on the various MTA committees and on the board itself. Some of the accomplishments of which I am most proud are:

- Brokered the first substantive change to the Los Angeles County FAP process that facilitates Metro Connections and encourages LA County transit coordination by removing the two year lag for service changes
- Initiated the Los Angeles/Orange County intercounty Study
- Introduced a motion for the Countywide Rider Relief program providing subsidies against the fare increase for the lowest income Los Angeles County transit riders
- Assured continued funding for an additional Big Rig Tow on the SR 91
- Moved the I-710 Major Corridor forward to the environmental stage
- Obtained additional funding for the I-5 Carmenita Interchange Project

Thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. I look forward to working with you and all of the COG cities in the future.

Sincerely,

  
BONNIE LOWENTHAL  
Councilmember  
City of Long Beach

Cc: Richard Powers  
COG members