

Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

**AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit  
FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director  
DATE: August 14, 2019  
SUBJECT: **INQUIRY INTO ECO-RAPID TRANSIT JOINING THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker

**ISSUE**

During the past month, Eco-Rapid Transit inquired into the feasibility of joining Gateway Cities COG as a member.

**BACKGROUND**

The Gateway Cities COG consists of 28 members and is one of the sub-regions of Los Angeles County formed as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

In order to potentially facilitate the funding issues between the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG) and the Orangeline/Eco-Rapid Transit JPA, it has been suggested that the Eco-Rapid JPA join the Gateway Cities COG as a member.

A review if the JPA agreement revealed that only a city or three of the Supervisorial Districts can become COG members. The Eco-Rapid JPA cannot join as it is a JPA and not a city as specified in Section 24 – D which states:

**D. Admitting New Members.** New Members who are not Eligible Public Entities\* may be admitted to the Council upon an affirmative vote of not less than fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the total voting membership of the Board **provided that such a proposed new Member is a city whose jurisdiction, or part thereof, lies within and/or immediately adjacent to, Southeast Los Angeles County.**

\*Eligible Public Entities is the List of COG cities described in Attachment "A"

The last City to be added was the City of Industry.

The COG JPA Agreement could be revised to include other Public Entities such as a JPA in the definition of eligible members but that would take years to accomplish should the GCCOG decide that it should be allowed. All 27 cities and the County would need to adopt the change in the JPA Agreement.

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

Chair

Karina Macias  
Mayor  
City of Huntington Park

Vice-Chair

Ali Sajjad Taj  
Council Member  
City of Artesia

Secretary

Sean Ashton  
Councilmember  
City of Downey

Treasurer

Vrej Agajanian  
Council Member  
City of Glendale

Internal Auditor

Jose R. Gonzalez  
Mayor  
City of Cudahy

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings  
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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Authorize Chair and Executive Director to write a letter of inquiry into membership and ask how Eco-Rapid Transit can become a member of Gateway Cities COG
2. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
3. Receive and file the item