



**GART**



**Delegation of the United States country-group of Cités Unies France,**

**in partnership with  
the Association of mayors of large cities of France (AMGVF),  
the French federation of public local enterprises (FNEPL) and  
the association of French Public Transportation Regulation Authorities (GART),**

**headed by Mr. Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasburg, Senator  
and president of the United States country-group**

**Washington DC, from 23 to 26 of June 2009**

## **English summary**

## Introduction

The French delegation aimed at exploring possibilities to give a new impulse to transatlantic city twinning and partnerships. It left Washington DC with a feeling of satisfaction, and with new perspectives and propositions. The present document will give some brief elements about the meetings held and concentrate on the propositions and perspectives for further collaboration. A more detailed report in French has been written for the French cities and local governments concerned.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasburg, Senator, and President of the United States country-group of Cités Unies France.

It also included representatives of three other French associations of local governments:  
the Association of mayors of large cities of France (AMGVF),  
the French federation of public local enterprises (FNEPL) and  
the association of French Public Transport Regulation Authorities (GART).

The delegation met with its US counterparts, in particular, the US Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International and the American Public Transportation Association.

The delegation had the privilege of an audience with Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Ray LaHood.

It was received at the US GMF headquarters, from whom it had received of strong support all the way long during the preparation.

The delegation also had the pleasure to meet with the French ambassador who ensured the delegation that he personally and his staff will sustain our follow-up efforts.

A working session at the DC Office offered a very interesting insight in city management and its challenges.

Last but not least, a very interesting meeting was hosted by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on climate change and local governments.

Each time, the delegation was honored by a warm welcome and met with his American host's sincere wish to develop further cooperation. Several concrete propositions have been made that will be mentioned below.

Priority of the fields of urban transportation and mobility, climate change and diversity has been mutually confirmed.

The need to develop new methods, including working on concrete projects, with a limited number of cities in a defined time framework, was generally agreed upon.

**Mr. Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasburg, on behalf of the French delegation, expresses his sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to make the visit to Washington DC a success and extends an invitation to join efforts in the follow-up stage.**

## The delegation composition

Mr. Roland	RIES	Mayor of Strasburg, Member of the French Senate, President of the "United States - France" country group of the United Cities France association ; president of the French equivalent of APTA, called GART
Mrs. Nawel	RAFIK-ELMRINI	Deputy Mayor in charge of European and International Relations of the city of Strasburg
Mr. Patrick	PINCET	Director the Mayor of Strasburg office
Mrs. Michèle	HENRY	Project Officer European and International Relations of the city of Strasburg
Mr. Philippe	DE LONGEVIALLE	Deputy-Mayor of the city of Grenoble, in charge of urbanization, representing Mr. Michel Destot, Mayor and President of the Association of mayors of large cities of France (AMGVF)
Mr. Jacques	BOYON	Honorary Chairman of the French Federation of Public Local Enterprises, in charge of the International Relations Committee, Former cabinet Minister
Mr. Christian	LALU	General Manager of AMGVF
Mr. Nicolas	WIT	Deputy General Manager of Cités Unies France

Had to cancel at the last minute for family reasons:

Mr. Jean-Michel	BERLEMONT	Deputy Mayor, in charge of European, International and Crossborder Relations of the city of Nancy
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## Resume of the Delegation's program

Organizations and people met
<b>Tuesday 23 June</b>
Conference call at the French Embassy with nearly all French consulates in the country to share views on the topics of the delegation
<b>Wednesday 24 June</b>
Visit of the National Museum of American History
Visit at the Atlas District / H-Street - renovation process.
Lunch offered by the French Ambassador Mr. Pierre Vimont
Meeting with the US Conference of Mayors
Meeting with Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation
<b>Thursday 25 June</b>
Meeting with DC Government /Office of Planning
Meeting with the German Marshall Fund of the United States
Presentation made by the Mayor of Strasburg on public transportation and urban mobility, to a panel of elected officials and experts invited by GMF.
Meeting with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
Meeting with Sister Cities International (SCI)
<b>Friday 26 June</b>
Meeting at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Fairfax
Meeting with the National League of Cities

## **Organizations and people met – conclusions, perspectives and propositions**

Tuesday 23 June

The delegation was offered by the French Embassy the opportunity to share in a conference call views with nearly all consulates in the country.

The consulates confirmed the priority of the themes proposed by Mr. Roland Ries: urban transportation and mobility, climate change and diversity. They stressed the importance of the economic aspects though.

They also welcomed the delegation's propositions to further inter-municipal collaboration by working on concrete projects, with a limited number of cities in a defined time framework, and with specific funding.

Wednesday 24 June

### **Lunch offered by the French Ambassador Mr. Pierre Vimont**

At the occasion of the lunch he offered to the delegation, Mr. Vimont stressed the importance of the contribution that French and US local governments can make to enhance transatlantic relationships. He ensured the delegation of his ongoing support.

### **Meeting with the US Conference of Mayors**

The delegation was hosted by Mrs. Kay Randle Scrimger, Director of international relations. The meeting took place only a few days after the mayor's annual conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

The director mentioned the active role of the Conference, for several years, in climate change. The Conference has a working relationship with United Cities and Local Governments, based in Barcelona.

### **Perspectives**

Responding to an invitation made by Mr. Jacques Boyon, Mrs. Kay Randle Scrimger expressed the interest of the US Conference of Mayors to be invited at the European Conference of public local enterprises, at Brussels, next 27 October.

She also informed the delegation that the US Conference of Mayors has been invited at the Eurocities Study Days "Urban challenges – sustainable solutions", held in Stockholm, from 25 till 28 November.

Both parties agreed to organize a follow-up meeting with board members. The director suggested this meeting to take place at the next Annual Conference in 2010.

## **Meeting with Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation**

Mr. Ray LaHood addressed a warm welcome to the French delegation. On May 26th, Mr. Ray LaHood had visited France by “high speed rail” (TGV), including Strasburg, where he studied the urban transportation. At that occasion he invited the Mayor, Mr. Roland Ries, to come meet him in June...

Mr. Ray LaHood stressed the importance of battle against climate heating and the evolution to a green economy. Modern public transportation fits into these priorities.

### Perspectives

The delegation very much appreciated Mr. Ray LaHood’s wish to develop French-US cooperation in the fields of “high speed rail” and urban public (rail) transportation.

Thursday 25 June

## **Meeting with DC Government /Office of Planning**

A working session at the DC Office with several staff members offered the delegation an excellent opportunity to understand the District of Columbia situation and its strategies in the fields of urban mobility, urban ecology and urban renewal.

### Perspectives

Possibilities of collaboration could include people’s participation in the planning and management processes, as well as diversity questions (see also NLC meeting).

During his visit at the Atlas District / H-Street, the delegation was impressed by the role of private funding and initiative in the renovation process.

## **Meeting with the German Marshall Fund of the United States**

At the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States, the French delegation was hosted by its executive Vice-President, Mrs. Karen Donfried. Mr. Roland Ries thanked her for the strong support received during the preparation of the delegation.

### Perspectives

A collaboration between GMF and the associations of the delegation could take place within the framework of the *Transatlantic Cities Network* (TCN). As Mr. Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, Senior Director Policy and Programs, pointed out, this network is part of a broader « *Comparative domestic policy program* ».

Mrs. Ellen Pope, in charge of the program, explained that 25 US and European cities are involved in TCN, at the moment, including Lyon and, recently, Lille. Both parties agreed to explore possibilities of cooperation with the US country-group and the French associations. GMF actually works according to the methods proposed by the delegation: working on concrete projects, with a limited number of cities in a defined time framework, and with specific funding.

The working session was followed by a presentation made by the mayor of Strasburg, to a panel of elected officials and experts invited by GMF, on public transportation and urban mobility.

### **Meeting with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)**

The delegation was welcomed by two Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Petra Mollet (“Strategies”) and Mr. Arthur L. Guzzetti (“Policies”) and several staff members.

They stressed that the French equivalent of APTA<sup>1</sup>, the GART, wasn’t a stranger to them...

#### Perspectives

The APTA vice-presidents very much approved a proposition from GART’s president, Mr. Roland Ries, to create an active partnership between the two associations. In order to advance quickly, APTA invited GART to participate at their meeting in Salt Lake City, early August<sup>2</sup>.

The **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** participated as well at the meeting.

#### Perspectives

The FTA representative expressed its intention to visit France in November in order to explore possibilities of exchange of experiences on what she called “*liveable communities*”.

### **Meeting with Sister Cities International**

The delegation was hosted by Mr. Jim Doumas and staff members.

Cités Unies France and Sister Cities International (SCI) already knew each other and worked together in 2006 - 2007 in a State Department funded program “Waging peace in our communities”.

#### Perspectives

Sister Cities International responded positively to a proposition of Cités Unies France to foster, where possible, trilateral cooperation involving US and French cities and local governments from African, Latin American, and Asian countries. A particular effort could be made towards Africa – SCI will execute a new program on foundation funds. Comparing data on twinning and partnerships will be a starting point.

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<sup>1</sup> To be precise, GART, unlike APTA, only federates the regulation authorities of public transportation

<sup>2</sup> Time being really short, GART has not been able to honor this invitation, but contacts are underway.

Sister Cities International invited the delegation to mobilize its members to attend its Annual conference in Belfast, from 29 July till 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009<sup>3</sup>.

Friday 26 June

### **Northern Virginia Regional Commission**

The French delegation was welcomed by Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) chairman, Mr. Marc Gibb. He thanked Mr. Dale Medearis, Senior Environmental Planner, for his role in bringing in the delegation<sup>4</sup>.

NVRC invited Mr. Philippe de Longévalle, Deputy Mayor on urbanism of the city of Grenoble, to make a presentation on “Grenoble – Sustainable city” to a panel of elected officials and technicians.

Perspectives

The Grenoble presentation made panel members express their wish to continue exchanges in the field of sustainability and contribution of cities against global warming.

Important to know, in April 2008, Mr. Dale Medearis created a network of US and European cities and regional governments on energy and climate. The European partner is METREX, a network of some 50 regions and metropolitan areas as well as numerous other partner organizations.

The Deputy County Executive of Fairfax county, Mr. David J. Mochany, informed the delegation of his intention to visit France next October.

### **Meeting with the National League of Cities (NLC)**

Mr. Donald Borut, Executive Director of the National League of Cities, welcomed the French delegation, and appreciated this initiative to continue a partnership that started five years ago.

Perspectives

Mr. Borut agreed with the working approach presented by the delegation as well as the priority fields. He made two propositions for future cooperation:

- on **diversity in US and French cities**. According to M. Borut, diversity and integration are high priority areas, causing fierce tensions both in the US and in Europe, that call for adequate solutions ;
- on the **fight against global warming** (« *climate dominates everything* »). NLC participated at the Climate Summit of local and regional governments, in Copenhagen, organized by UCLG and partners.

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<sup>3</sup> Cités Unies France has not been able to participate but briefed Mr. Jeremy Smith, Secretary General of the Council of European municipalities and regions who attended the conference.

<sup>4</sup> Invited by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Mr. Dale Medearis visited France in May; this visit included the city of Grenoble and the office of Cités Unies France, in Paris.

Both parties agreed to try to set up two working platforms, mobilizing a limited number of cities interested, around precise questions and objectives, for a limited time and with measurable results. Mr. Borut stressed the importance to find specific funding for each platform. He didn't want to hide the difficulty for US mayors to travel abroad (« *Media can be very harsh* »),

NLC director indicated a brief list of US cities to explore:

- On diversity, the following cities are considered “inclusive” or on the way: Ann Arbor, Boulder, Berkeley, Madison, Charlotte, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, ...
- On sustainable development, « leader » cities include: Portland, Austin, Boulder, Ann Arbor, ...

The French delegation decided to contact the French counterparts (if there are) of these cities.

### **Next steps ...**

The different perspectives will be presented at the French cities and local governments for discussion and action at the next meeting of the US country-group of Cités Unies France, 7 October 2009, Paris.

## Annex N° 1 : Organizations and people met by the delegation in June 2009

Organizations	People that participated at the meetings
Tuesday 23 June	
Conference call at the French Embassy with nearly all French consulates in the country to share views on the topics of the delegation	<p>President of the meeting: Mr. François Rivasseau, Minister Councilor at the French Embassy; organized by Mr. Pierre Bollinger, Advisor for Non-Governmental Affairs</p> <p>Other participants: Mrs. Caroline Regis, Economic and Industrial Counselor</p> <p>Consulates that participated: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco.</p>
Wednesday 24 June	
Visit of the National Museum of American History	Mrs. Sarah Oakman, special assistant, office of the director
Visit at the Atlas District / H-Street - renovation process.	Mr. Anwar Saleem, Executive Director "H Street Main Street"
Lunch offered by the French Ambassador Mr. Pierre Vimont	Mr. Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France; Mr. François Rivasseau, Minister Councilor at the French Embassy; Mr. Michel Schaffhauser, consulate general at Washington DC; Mr. François Gauthier, consulate general at Boston and Mrs. Marie-Louise Burke, president of Strasburg-Boston Sister Cities Association
Meeting with the US Conference of Mayors	Mrs. Kay Randle Scrimger, Director of international relations.
Meeting with Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation	Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation; staff members including Mr. Eddie Carazo, Diplomatic Programs and Protocol Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation
Thursday 25 June	
Meeting with DC Government /Office of Planning	Mr. Howard Ways, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Planning; Mrs. Geraldine Gardner, Associate Director of Neighborhood Planning, Office of Planning ; Mrs. Jennifer Steingasser, Deputy Director of Development Review and Historic Preservation, Office of Planning ; Mrs. Harriet Tregoning – Director of the Office of Planning ; Mrs. Karina

	Ricks, Associate Director, Transportation Planning & Policy Administration, Department of Transportation ; Mrs. Martine Combal, Manager, Property Acquisition and Disposition Division, Department of Housing and Community Development
Meeting with the German Marshall Fund of the United States	Mrs. Karen Donfried, Executive Vice President ; Mr. Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, Senior Director, Policy Programs ; Mrs. Ellen Pope, Director of Comparative Domestic Policy program ; Mr. Brent Riddle, program officer, Comparative Domestic Policy program
Presentation made by the Mayor of Strasburg on public transportation and urban mobility, to a panel of elected officials and experts invited by GMF.	Le GMF invited elected officials and experts for the conference: Mr. Ben Adler, Next American City ; Mrs. Monica Bansal, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments ; Mr. Stephen Del Guidice, Arlington county, Virginia ; Mr. Dennis Leach, Arlington Department of Environmental Services ; Mr. Dale Marsico, Community Transportation Association of America ; Mr. Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia regional Commission ; Mrs. Colleen Mitchell, DC Office of Planning ; Mrs. Karina Ricks, DC Department of Transport ; Mrs. Lea Rosenbohm, Brookings institution ; Mrs. Tamar Shapira, Smart Growth Leadership Institute ; Mr. Howard Ways, DC Office of Planning ; Mr. Tommy Wells, Council DC ; Mr. Hal Wolman, George Washington Institute of Public policy
Meeting with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)	Mr. Arthur L. Guzzetti, Vice President - Policy ; Mrs. Petra Mollet, Vice President - Strategy ; Mr. Rich Weaver, Senior Program Manager - Planning and programs ; Mrs. Jessica Bechir, Program Manager International Programs  Also participated at the meeting: the " <b>Federal Transit Authority</b> " : Mrs. Rita Daguillard, Director, Office of research management ; Mr. Michael A. Winter, Senior Program Analyst, Office of research management
Meeting with Sister Cities International (SCI)	Mr. Jim Doumas, Executive Vice President ; Mrs. Laura Giroux, Membership manager ; Mr. Adam W. Kaplan, Program manager Sustainable development
Friday 26 June	
Meeting at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Fairfax	Mr. Marc Gibb, President de la Northern Virginia Regional Commission ; Mr. Dale Medearis, Senior Environmental Planner ; Mrs. Aimee L. Vosper, Director, Environmental & Planning services ; and a panel of elected officials and experts on climate and energie, including Mrs. Kristen C. Umstadd, Mayor of Leesburg ; Mr. David F. Snyder, Municipal councilor, Falls Church ; Mr. David J. Mochany, Deputy County executive, County of Fairfax
Meeting with the National League of Cities	Mr. Donald J. Borut, Executive Director ; Mr. Christopher W. Hoene, Director, Center for policy and research.