

**MINUTES OF THE
I-710 OVERSIGHT POLICY COMMITTEE**

**A Meeting Held at Progress Park
15500 Downey Avenue
Paramount, CA**

May 24, 2001

Chair De La Torre called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Hector De La Torre, South Gate; Co-Chair Ricardo Sanchez, Lynwood; Co-Chair Samuel Pena, Maywood; George Francis Bass, Bell; Marcine Shaw, Compton; Keith McCarthy, Downey; Jessica Maes, Huntington Park; Steve Novotny, Caltrans; Joan G. Wood, MTA; Zahi Faranesh, SCAG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Co-Chair Frank Colonna, Long Beach; Daniel Crespo, Bell Gardens; Hugo Argumedo, Commerce; Frank Gurule, Cudahy; Gene Daniels, Paramount; William Davis, Vernon; John R. Calhoun, Port of Long Beach.

ALSO PRESENT: Commerce Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; Long Beach Acting Manager of Traffic and Transportation Sumire Gant; Vernon Director of Community Services Kevin Wilson; Port of Long Beach Manager of Transportation Planning Kerry Cartwright; MTA Project Administrator Karin Hodin; Linda Taira, Caltrans Corridor Studies; GWCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GWCCOG General Counsel Robert Messinger; Jack Joseph, GWCCOG staff; Dave Levinsohn, Project Manager, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas; Donna McCormick, Environmental Planner, Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas; Alisa Kwun and Juliette Cagigas, Consensus Planning Group.

Member Bass led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member McCarthy, seconded by Member Shaw, to approve the minutes of the meetings of September 13, 2000, and February 28, 2001. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Alisa Kwun of Consensus Planning Group presented a report on the I-710 Public Outreach Plan. She summarized the interviews with stakeholders and listed the issues most frequently raised. Stakeholders cited the need to alleviate truck traffic for safety purposes, the desire for a transition from the right side of the I-710 to the northbound I-5, the need for an off-ramp at Slauson Avenue, and the lack of landscaping and general aesthetics on the freeway. She announced a series of public workshops to be held in the cities of Commerce, Lynwood, and Long Beach in the month of June.

Joan Wood presented her recommendation that the OPC proceed with a Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report (PEAR), as opposed to a Tier 1 environmental review process. She explained that a Tier 1 process would have been the preferred method if the dollars were to be available for right-of-way acquisition immediately at the completion of the study. Since that is not the case, and since a Tier 1 process would involve the Federal Highway Administration to a much higher degree, the PEAR alternative would save seven or eight months in the environmental review process. She said the PEAR process does not have to meet the requirements of CEQA or NEPA. The resultant cost savings could be used to develop project study reports for specified improvements. The EIR/EIS would be sufficient to acquire right-of-way, but not be begin construction. She said the additional environmental review that would be required before construction could be done at a later time without delaying the overall project.

It was moved by Member McCarthy, seconded by Member Shaw, to approve the recommendation to proceed with a PEAR environmental review process. The motion was approved unanimously.

Steve Novotny presented a report on the I-710 maintenance projects currently being undertaken or planned by Caltrans. He announced a website that could be accessed to obtain freeway accident information, that being www.chp.ca.gov.

After discussion with the project consultants as to the schedule for the next decision points, it was the consensus of the Oversight Policy Committee to meet again on August 23, and September 20.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:41 p.m.