

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

**A Meeting Held at Bateman Hall
11331 Ernestine Avenue, Room 2
Lynwood, CA**

December 4, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Co-Chair Frank Colonna.

II. ROLL CALL. Gateway Cities Council of Governments Executive Director Richard Powers called the roll. A quorum was found to be present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT. Co-Chair Frank Colonna, Long Beach; Co-Chair Samuel Peña, Maywood; Daniel Crespo, Bell Gardens; Hugo Argumedo, Commerce; Frank Gurule, Cudahy; Juan Noguez, Huntington Park; Louis Byrd, Lynwood; Gene Daniels, Paramount; William Davis, Vernon; Gloria Molina, County of Los Angeles; Mario Cordero, Port of Long Beach; Sharas Bangalore, Caltrans; Ray Maekawa, MTA; Hassan Ikhata, SCAG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT. George Cole, Bell; Isadore Hall III, Compton; Keith McCarthy, Downey; Hector De La Torre, South Gate; Jim Dear, Carson; Thomas Warren, Port of Los Angeles.

OTHERS PRESENT. Richard Powers, Gateway Cities COG Executive Director; Deborah Chankin, Gateway Cities COG Director of Program Development; Robert Messinger, Legal Counsel.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Member Molina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA. There were no amendments to the agenda. Mr. Powers pointed out that an addendum to the staff report for agenda item VIII. A. was available at Members' seats and at the back of the meeting room.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Co-Chair Frank Colonna called for public comments and requested that comments be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Angelo Logan representing East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice spoke about the need for adequate air quality modeling in the Preliminary

Environmental Assessment Report. Mr. Logan stated that the South Coast Air Quality Management District has many appendices about this in its documents. Mr. Logan distributed a 3-page document titled "Appendix -Key Studies on Air Pollution and Health Effects Near High-Traffic Areas Compiled by the Environmental Law and Policy Center and the Sierra Club."

Bob Eula chair of the City of Commerce Tier 1 Committee commented that Long Beach and Commerce are the most impacted cities. Commerce has two rail yards. Mr. Eula stated that there is a known alternative which is to use Bandini for traffic moving between the I-710 and the I-5. Mr. Eula was concerned that routing signage for this alternate had recently been removed by Caltrans. Mr. Eula commented that air pollution causes disabilities in children.

Norma Macias, a resident and employee of the City of Commerce stated that her son was born with a disability that was never precisely diagnosed. Ms. Macias believes that the air pollution in the area is the source of his problem and that of other children.

Robert Cabrales of Communities for a Better Environment stated that only the City of South Gate has information on its website regarding the I-710 Major Corridor Study. If the public is going to be well informed, other cities need to follow their lead.

Jorge Villanueva resident of Los Angeles and member of Communities for a Better Environment commented that the OPC should give the public earlier notice when it cancels its meetings or changes the location. Mr. Villanueva has asthma and is concerned about diesel emissions and health issues.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the October 29, 2003, meeting of the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee. It was moved by Co-Chair Peña, seconded by member Daniels to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

A. Report on Progress of Community Advisory Committees. Richard Powers, Gateway Cities COG Executive Director, recapped the OPC's previous motions concerning formation of the Community Advisory Committees and the adopted Guiding Principles.

Pat McLaughlin reported for the facilitators Moore Iacofano Goltsman (MIG.) Ms. McLaughlin distributed a copy of the Advisory Committee Structure and Charge and a matrix showing Advisory Committee Progress. Ms. McLaughlin reported that all of the six cities that are most impacted have formed Community Advisory Committees. Initial meetings have been productive and well received. She and Sam Gennaway of MIG will facilitate the OPC's discussion of its appointments to the Tier 2 committee and all Tier 2 meetings.

It was moved by Co-Chair Colonna and seconded by Member Noguez to continue the discussion of appointments to the Tier 2 Committee to the January 2004 meeting. In the meantime, the Co-chairs will forward a letter to OPC members regarding the imperative to appoint Tier 2 community representatives. The motion was approved unanimously. Member Argumedo asked that staff contact the cities to encourage them to complete their appointments.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Status Report and Possible Action Regarding State Funding for Near Term Safety Improvements to the I-710 Freeway from the Ports to State Route 60. Mr. Powers reviewed the staff report on the proposed safety initiative.

Co-Chair Colonna stated that we need to aggressively pursue the six elements contained in the initiative in advance of the hybrid plan which could take a couple of years. Co-Chair Colonna expressed concern about the impacts of the state budget crisis and administrative transitions in Sacramento, although the project is moving along at the federal level.

Member Molina commented that given that there is very little money for 5 years, the 6 elements need to be prioritized. Concrete barriers are more important than paving rehabilitation. It was moved by Co-Chair Peña and seconded by Member Daniels that the I-710 Safety Initiative be approved and that notwithstanding the continuing desire to see the pavement rehabilitation move forward, the pending Caltrans projects should be unbundled and new concrete median barriers should be prioritized as the most important element to be advocated. The motion passed unanimously. The Co-Chairs will prepare a letter to send to Caltrans and state legislators.

Robert Cabrales, Bell resident commented that graffiti needs to be removed and more landscaping provided. Co-chair Sam Peña stated that he supports a solution to the problem.

Long Beach resident Alan Hose complimented Member Molina's leadership.

Commerce Tier 1 Chair Bob Eula thanked Member Molina for attending the OPC meeting. Mr. Eula announced a Town Hall meeting on December 13, and requested Caltrans to provide maps of planned interchange improvements.

Member Cordero requested clarification that the feasibility study requested in Element 4 of the report would consider whether truck inspection facilities at or near the ports were a good idea and would not just assume this. Staff agreed that this issue would be studied.

Member Molina requested clarification that we can build on the safety initiative to include environmental enhancements in the projects we advocate. Co-Chair

Colonna agreed that we can. Member Molina requested a report from Caltrans on the Bandini signage issue raised by the public. Member Bangalore agreed to investigate.

B. Appointment by the OPC of up to 15 Members of the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee. In accordance with the action taken under agenda item VII.
A. discussion of this matter was continued to the next meeting of the OPC.

IX. COMMENTS FROM OPC MEMBERS. Member Gurule commented that he personally has family members who suffer from asthma. The public should know that the OPC is concerned about the health impacts of the freeway.

Co-Chair Peña commented that the Gateway Cities Partnership has completed studies on environmental health in the subregion and the Gateway Cities COG has done a lot to educate the public about environmental and health issues and initiate programs. The OPC shares the public's concerns.

Member Cordero thanked the public for participating in the meeting especially those who commented earlier in the evening.

Co-Chair Colonna said the usual meeting time has been the third week of the month so the OPC next meeting could be Thursday, January 15, 2004. Staff will confirm that Paramount Progress Park is available.

X. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m