

# **I-710 EIR/EIS PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 7, 2007  
7:00 p.m. Meeting**

**Offices of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Boulevard  
Paramount, CA**

## **AGENDA**

**STAFF REPORTS AND OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OFFICES, 16401 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD, PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA. ANY PERSON HAVING QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANY AGENDA ITEM MAY CALL THE COG STAFF AT (562) 663-6850.**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** The I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee will hear from the public on any item on the agenda or an item of interest that is not on the agenda. The I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee cannot take action on any item not scheduled on the agenda. These items may be referred for administrative action or scheduled on a future agenda. Comments are to be limited to three minutes for each speaker, unless extended by the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee, and each speaker will only have one opportunity to speak on any one topic. You have the opportunity to address the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee at the following times:

- A. AGENDA ITEM: at the time the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee considers the agenda item OR during Public Comments; and
- B. NON-AGENDA ITEMS: during Public Comments, comments will be received for a maximum 20-minute period; any additional requests will be heard following the completion of the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee agenda; and
- C. PUBLIC HEARINGS: at the time for public hearings.

**Please keep your comments brief and complete a speaker card for the Chair.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL - BY SELF-INTRODUCTIONS**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** - This is the time and place to change the order of the agenda, delete or add any agenda item(s).
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Three minutes for each speaker.

**VI. COMMENDATIONS**

- A. Special Recognition to Former Co-Chair Nancy Ramos for Leadership on the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee and Executive Committee

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Minutes of the September 14, 2006, meeting of the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee

**VIII. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIR**

**IX. REPORTS**

- A. Status Report on the I-710 EIR/EIS Study
  1. Introduction of URS/MIG Consultant Team
  2. Overview of Work Program
  3. Overview of Community Participation Element

SUGGESTED ACTION: Receive and File

- B. Development of the Air Quality Action Plan for the I-710 Corridor - Presentation by Cliff Gladstein, Gladstein Neandross & Associates

SUGGESTED ACTION: Receive and File the Report

- C. Update on the Ports' Alternative Technology Study - Presentation by Kerry Cartwright, Director of Goods Movements, Port of Los Angeles

SUGGESTED ACTION: Receive and File the Report

**X. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE GATEWAY CITIES COG OFFICE AT (562) 663-6850. NOTIFICATION 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING WILL ENABLE THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENT TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING.

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Item A**  
**Approval of Minutes**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE I-710 EIR/EIS PROJECT COMMITTEE**

**A Meeting Held at the Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Blvd.  
Paramount, CA**

**September 14, 2006**

**I. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Nancy Ramos called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Self-Introductions.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair Nancy Ramos, Commerce; Mario Beltran, Bell Gardens; Jim Dear, Carson (arrived at 7:17 PM); Frank Gurule, Cudahy; Anne Bayer, Downey; Bob Foster, Long Beach; Felipe Aguirre, Maywood; Gil Hurtado, South Gate; William Davis, Vernon; Patrick V. DeChellis, County of Los Angeles; Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, Port of Los Angeles; Sharas Bangalore, Caltrans; Bonnie Lowenthal, MTA; Carol Herrera, San Gabriel Valley COG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: George Cole, Bell; Hugo Argumedo, Commerce; Lillie Dobson, Compton; Elba Guerrero, Huntington Park; Fernando Pedroza, Lynwood; Gene Daniels, Paramount; Kerry Cartwright, Port of Long Beach; Hasan Ikhata, SCAG.

ALSO PRESENT: William Pagett, Chair, I-710 Technical Advisory Committee; Karen Heit, MTA Board Deputy; Lynda Bybee, MTA Deputy Executive Officer; Richard Powers, GCCOG Executive Director; Jack Joseph, GCCOG Deputy Executive Director; Deborah Chankin, GCCOG Director of Program Development; Jerry Wood, GCCOG Consultant Engineer.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Beltran led the pledge of allegiance.

**VI. Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

## **V. Consent Calendar**

Member Lowenthal asked that the minutes of April 27, 2006, be amended to show that she was present. It was moved by Member Aguirre, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2006, with the amendment requested by Member Lowenthal. The motion was approved unanimously, with Members Davis and Herrera abstaining.

## **VI. Election of Co-Chair**

Co-Chair Ramos stated that a vacancy in the second Co-Chair position existed since the retirement of Frank Colonna from the Long Beach City Council. Member Herrera nominated Member Foster to fill the vacant Co-Chair position. It was moved by Member Bayer, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to close nominations and elect Member Foster as Co-Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. Overview of Procurement Process for the I-710 EIR/EIS**

The COG Executive Director presented an overview of the procurement process for the EIR/EIS consultant team. He said that the contracting would be the responsibility of the MTA. He said that there would be three Requests for Proposals (RFPs), covering the areas of environmental impact analysis, outreach, and community participation. The procurement process will be governed by case law and MTA procurement standards. The Executive Director said that the status of the RFP is that the scope of work is currently being reviewed by technical staff. He said that the RFPs will be released at the end of October, with the MTA Board of Directors scheduled to select the consultants at the end of January.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Lopez Mendoza, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **B. Status Report on MTA Board Motions of June 22, 2006**

The COG Executive Director referred the Committee to the report included in the agenda packet. He said that the MTA Board had approved a motion authorizing staff to proceed with the EIR/EIS phase of the I-710 project, with two amendments. The first amendment has three parts: 1) further explore the nature and development and role of a single purpose agency or agencies to fund this and other projects; 2) investigate the applicability of the funding model used in Oregon, whereby private investment was used to help fund the initial project

development work; and 3) investigate the conditions for applying for and obtaining pre-deployment funding from the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998.

The second amendment approved by the MTA Board has four components: 1) examine an alternatives that uses advanced technology for the movement of goods; 2) ensure that the public and community participation includes a “Tier 2-like” stakeholder advisory committee and that it meets quarterly, at a minimum; 3) the Executive Committee will submit a quarterly status update of the compendium of air quality improvement strategies to the MTA Planning and Programming Committee; and 4) allocate \$75,000 to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments to complete the “Short-Term Air Quality Plan”.

It was moved by Co-Chair Foster, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Lowenthal left the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and was replaced by MTA Board Deputy Karen Heit.

#### C. Proposed Community Participation Framework for the I-710 EIR/EIS

The COG Executive Director asked the COG Director of Program Development to report on the proposed community participation framework. The Director of Program Development distributed a chart illustrating the proposed framework. She described the components of the framework as: 1) Local Advisory Committees; 2) Subject Working Groups; and 3) Corridor Advisory Committee. She said that the chart supplements and illustrates the narrative description of the framework.

The Director of Program Development said that the local advisory committees will focus on issues related to the I-710 corridor and its current and future impacts on their communities. They will advise as to ways and means to enhance communication between the project and the local community. The role of the subject working groups is to bring together both knowledgeable stakeholders and community representatives to become more familiar with their respective viewpoints and to review and comment in more depth about specific subject areas. The Corridor Advisory Committee is a broad based corridor-wide body, which will utilize a professional facilitator and will structure itself based on key topic areas as identified by the local advisory committees and the subject working groups.

Member Lopez Mendoza asked what kind of flexibility there is regarding the structure for community participation. The Executive Director said that the Project Committee can modify the proposed structure. Member Lopez said that she would like the Committee’s action to reflect the fact that this flexibility exists.

She said that the proposed framework doesn't say that that the local advisory committees and subject working groups can make suggestions regarding mitigation measures. She said that would be a useful role for them. The Director of Program Development replied that the last page of the memo articulates that all committees will have input to the Corridor Advisory Committee. Lynda Bybee, MTA, said that all local advisory committees will have input to their city councils for suggestions on mitigation measures. Member Lopez Mendoza said that she appreciated the clarification, but thinks that it is very important to state explicitly that the committees can make input regarding mitigation. It was the consensus of the Committee to accept the recommendation of Member Lopez Mendoza as an amendment to the framework.

Member Lopez Mendoza asked how the Technical Advisory Committee is covered by the framework. The Executive Director said that the Technical Advisory Committee would be made up of the public works directors or their equivalent from the member agencies and the South Coast AQMD.

Elina Green, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma asked how information flows in the community participation process. The Director of Program Development responded that there will be a professional facilitator assisting at Corridor Advisory Committee meetings and that the consultant team will interact with the communities. She said Spanish translation services will be available.

Malcolm Carson, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, suggested that the Committee adopt the Katz amendment that there be a "Tier 2 like" community participation process. He said he agreed with Member Lopez Mendoza's amendment regarding input on mitigation measures. He said he was disappointed that the RFP for the Short-Term Air Quality Action Plan was not submitted for public comment.

Member Dear arrived at the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Mr. Carson said that people should be allowed to review the RFP for the EIR consultant. The Executive Director responded that the RFP is subject to MTA rules regarding procurement and confidentiality. Member Heit said that MTA cannot allow someone who is not from one of the participating agencies review the RFP. However, once the RFP is released, the scope can be amended. The Executive Director said that the Tier 1 and Tier 2 community advisory committees did have input into the scope.

Bob Eula, Commerce Tier 1 Community Advisory Committee, said that he was disappointed that he only learned about tonight's meeting yesterday. He said that he feels that public comments should be taken at the beginning of the meeting.

He recommended that the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee be continued through the current process.

Yuki Kidokoro, Communities for a Better Environment, said that it is great that there is a clear community participation process. She said she wants to make sure that the process is open to change based on community input. She asked when the bodies will be formed and long will the commitment be for committee members. The Executive Director responded that there are two critical principles: first, there is no project if there is no ongoing community participation process, and, second, we must clean up the air. The Director of Program Development said that the first set of appointments will be made by the city councils and the County. She said the preliminary work would be done over the next few months in the localities. She said the actual project kickoff will take place after the consultant is selected, probably at the beginning of the year. She said the hope is that people will be willing to work over the next three years.

Co-Chair Ramos asked if each city had to form a local advisory committee. The Executive Director responded that it is up to each individual city council. Linda Bybee, MTA, said it was recommended that each city that had direct impact have a committee. Member Dear asked how many people should serve on the local advisory committee. The Director Program Development said that there is no mandate on a specific number, but that experience has shown that five to ten members is an effective number. Member Dear asked who would make up the local advisory committee. Co-Chair Ramos responded that each city decides for itself what is best.

It was moved by Member Beltran that public comments be agendized to come at the start of the meeting, with a five minutes per speaker limitation. Member Dear said that he supported the motion, but if there is a large number of speakers there should be a lower limit so that there is less repetitiveness. Member Beltran said that he would amend his motion to incorporate the suggestion of Member Dear. The motion was seconded by Member Dear. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Lopez Mendoza, seconded by Co-Chair Foster, to move the general framework on community participation to the front of the document and to add a clear description that the committees are allowed input into the mitigation measures. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Lopez Mendoza, seconded by Co-Chair Foster, to amend the local advisory committee's specific role to read "...the I-710 Corridor, its current and future impacts on their communities, and mitigation plans to reduce those impacts". The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Lopez Mendoza, seconded by Co-Chair Foster, to

have the framework state that the subject working groups role will also include input into documents during the outline or draft phase. Member Dear asked what the goals of the Port of Los Angeles are. Member Lopez Mendoza responded that she wants meaningful public participation. Member Dear asked if that is the view of the Harbor Commission. Member Lopez Mendoza responded that it is. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Lopez Mendoza recommended that the following language be added to the end of the last sentence under "Flow of Information": "including reports on the committees' input into the program documents", and that arrows be added to the chart to reflect this. It was moved by Member Dear, seconded by Co-Chair Foster, to approve the amendment suggested by Member Lopez Mendoza.

It was moved by Co-Chair Foster, seconded by Member Davis, to adopt the proposed Community Participation Framework for the I-710 EIR/EIS as amended by the Project Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### D. Update on Gateway Cities COG Air Quality Action Plan

Jerry Wood, COG consultant engineer, presented a report on the status of the Short-Term Air Quality Action Plan. He said that the Plan should be completed by December or January. He said the primary focus is on outreach. It was moved by Co-Chair Foster, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **VIII. Comments from Committee Members**

Member Hurtado said that the Committee may want to look at making written material available in Spanish. He asked how often the COG website is updated. The Executive Director responded that the COG is currently in the process of updating the website.

Member Gurule said that they should try to educate committees to select a speaker for them during public comments to reduce repetition.

### **IX. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

### **X. Adjournment**

It was moved by Co-Chair Foster, seconded by Member Hurtado, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting of the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.