

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

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

October 29, 2009

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Self-Introductions

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate, Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens; Co-Chair; Hugo Argumedo, City of Commerce; Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy; Anne Bayer, City of Downey; Elba Guerrero, Val Lerch, City of Long Beach; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill; Pat DeChellis, County of Los Angeles; Dr. Mike Walter, Port of Long Beach; Borja Leon, Port of Los Angeles; Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA; Doug Failing, Caltrans; Diane DuBois, MTA; Susan Seamans, SBCCOG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: George Mirabal, City of Bell; Jim Dear, City of Carson; Lillie Dobson, City of Compton; Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood; City of Huntington Park; Maria T. Santillan, City of Lynwood; William Davis, City of Vernon; Rich Macias, SCAG; Barbara Messina, SGVCOG.

ALSO PRESENT: South Gate Councilmember Bill DeWitt; Bill Pagett, City Engineer, City of Paramount, I-710 TAC Chair; Barbara Munoz, Director of Public Works, City of Signal Hill; Phil Doudar, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Sue Lai, Traffic Engineer, Port of Los Angeles; Larry Cottrill, Director of Master Planning, Port of Long Beach; Rick Cameron, Port of Long Beach; Jolene Hayes, Port of Long Beach; Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director, SBCCOG; Abdi Saghafi, Project Manager, Caltrans; Ron Kosinski, Deputy Director of Environmental Planning, Caltrans; Susan Gilmore, Metro; Ernesto Chavez, Transportation Planner, Metro; Dave Randall, Transportation Director, Montebello Unified School District; Peter Greenwald, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Susan Nakamura, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Richard Powers, Executive Director, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, Deputy Executive Director, GCCOG; Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy, GCCOG; Jerry Wood, GCCOG Engineer; Angelo Logan, I-710 Corridor Advisory Committee; Ian McMillan, I-710 Environmental Subject Working Group; Paul Simon, Corridor Advisory

Committee; Bob Eula, City of Commerce Local Advisory Committee; Jack Waldron, Project Manager, URS; Dave Levinsohn, Deputy Project Manager, URS; Shannon Willits, Engineering Manager, URS; Rob McCann, President, LSA; Pat McLaughlin, Principal, MIG; Esmeralda Garcia, Project Manager, MIG; Jesse Froelich, MIG; Julia Lester, Environ International.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Gurule led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Guerrero, to move Item IX.E. to be the first item taken up under reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Public Comments

Beatriz Reyes, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, spoke in support of the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Guillermo Merin, Communities for a Better Environment, said that he desired trees to be planted along the freeway, with one tree every 25 feet, so that we can breathe some clean air.

Maria Yolanda Lopez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said that she lives three blocks from the freeway, has a heart problem, walks every day, and feels that the air is not good for her health. She asked the Project Committee to analyze carefully the effects of construction, particularly noise, dust, and pollution.

Mark Lopez, Communities for a Better Environment, expressed concern that action is not moving forward.

April Solares, Communities for a Better Environment, spoke in support of the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Yolanda Chavez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, spoke in support of the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee and said she is concerned about the effects of the project.

Rosi Gonzalez, Youth for Environmental Justice, asked the Committee to listen to what they have to say.

VI. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member Forester, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously

VII. Appointments

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Gurule, to appoint Patrick Schanen of the Los Angeles Unified School District to the I-710 Environmental Subject Working Group. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. I-710 Project Committee 2010 Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member Forester, to establish the following dates as the meeting schedule for the Project Committee in 2010: January 28; April 29; July 29; September 30; and December 30. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Reports

E. Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) Recommendations

Angelo Logan gave a summary presentation of the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee that were formulated by the Environmental Subject Working Group. He said they concerned three topic areas: significance thresholds, near-source modeling, and construction impacts. He said a recommendation related to implementation of Health Impact Analysis tools was also being forwarded to the Project Committee for consideration.

Susan Nakamura, South Coast Air Quality Management District, presented the recommendation from the Corridor Advisory Committee regarding significance thresholds. She said that the recommendation from that the Corridor Advisory Committee was to use the SCAQMD significance thresholds as the thresholds to be used to meet the CEQA guidelines and that these thresholds be adopted before completion of the Air Quality Action Plan and Health Risk Assessment results. In response to a question from Ms. Nakamura, Member Failing said that Caltrans determined significance thresholds for a project on a case by case basis. He said Caltrans would agree to use the SCAQMD's significance thresholds for the I-710 project.

Dave Randall presented the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee regarding construction impacts. He said that the recommendation was to develop a staging plan with adequate time to

quantify construction impacts in the Health Risk Assessment; and to address full construction impacts from a health perspective.

Ian McMillan presented the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee regarding near-source modeling. He said the recommendations were to conduct near-roadway modeling at a level smaller than the analysis unit of a Traffic Analysis Zone as part of the air quality analysis, and to consider ambient air quality data that reflect near-roadway concentrations. He said the project consultants should continue to monitor current research on ultrafine particulates and incorporate it as appropriate.

Paul Simon presented the recommendation of the Corridor Advisory Committee that there is a need for a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment.

Julia Lester, Environ, said she wanted to be clear that construction impacts can only be estimated on a gross level, and that conducting a health risk assessment (including dispersion modeling) is not technically feasible because the project phasing is unknown. She said that action to minimize exposure to sensitive receptors can be undertaken at the time of phasing.

Yuki Kidokoro, Communities for a Better Environment, spoke in favor of the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Erin Huffer, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said she supported the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Madeline Clarke, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, spoke regarding the effects of traffic going to the rail yards which are felt by the residents of Commerce.

Robert Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment, said he support the recommendations and asked that a presentation be made in the city of Huntington Park.

Adriano Martinez, Natural Resources Defense Council, referred the Committee to a letter from the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice supporting the recommendations of the Community Advisory Committee. He said that he was glad that Caltrans agreed to use the SCAQMD's significance thresholds. He said the project should model different levels of cargo growth. He said he encouraged adoption of the Corridor Advisory Committee's recommendations.

Monica Parrilla, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said that she was concerned about pollution in the air and supported the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Maria Reyes, Long Beach, said she was concerned about the health effects of living close to the freeway.

Jocelyn Vivar, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, read the letter from the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice supporting the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Mark Lopez, Communities for a Better Environment, asked the Committee to do everything necessary to evaluate this project.

Elina Green, UCLA Center for Environmental Health, said she strongly supported looking at health impacts in the Environmental Impact Report.

Sue Lai, Port of Los Angeles, read a statement from Los Angeles Harbor Commissioner Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza supporting the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Bob Eula, Commerce Local Advisory Committee, said that he wished to reiterate that the Tier II Community Advisory Committee's final document identified health as the number one priority of the project.

Martha Cota, Long Beach, said she supports the recommendation from the SCAQMD. She asked that the study consider the effects on the health of those who live near the freeway.

After discussion among the Project Committee members, it was moved by Member Lerch, seconded by Member Argumedo, to concur with the recommendations of the Corridor Advisory Committee with the following modifications: 1) substitute "use" for "adopt" with regard to SCAQMD's air quality significance thresholds; and 2) defer action on the recommendations relating to near-source modeling and construction impacts to the January meeting of the Project Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was the consensus of the Project Committee to look at the construction impacts as part of the Health Risk Assessment.

Co-Chair Hurtado declared a recess of the Project Committee meeting at 9:26 p.m.

The Project Committee returned from recess at 9:40 p.m.

A. Status Report on the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS

1. Status Report—Engineering

Jack Waldron, URS Project Manager, reviewed the project schedule and summarized the tasks that had been completed since the April meeting of the Project Committee. He reviewed the current tasks and studies, including value analysis, hydraulics/hydrology studies, planting design concepts, traffic operational analysis, and right of way and utility impacts.

2. Status Report—Environmental

Rob McCann, LSA, provided an update on the environmental studies. He reported that all environmental technical studies are underway according to the project schedule. He said draft studies will be based on draft geometrics and traffic analysis to date. He said the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment is being developed with extensive input from both public agencies and the I-710 local advisory committee.

3. Status Report—Community Participation

Pat McLaughlin, MIG, presented an update on the community participation activity. She reviewed past and upcoming meetings of the various local advisory committees and subject working groups.

It was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member Forester, to receive and file the project status report. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Updated Ports' Cargo Forecast Presentation

Larry Cottrill, Director of Master Planning for the Port of Long Beach, gave a presentation regarding the ports' updated cargo forecasts. He said the San Pedro Bay Container Update was completed in July and represented a substantial reduction from the 2007 forecast. He said the year 2020 projections of the number of containers coming to and from the ports had been reduced 40% from the previous study. As a result, he said, the projections showing the ports reaching capacity have been pushed out ten to twelve years.

It was moved by Member Walter, seconded by Member Forester, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Air Quality Action Plan Update and Review of Draft Scope of Work by Gateway Cities COG Staff

Jerry Wood reviewed the draft scope of work for the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Air Quality Action Plan. He reported that the draft scope of work had been reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and others, including environmental groups, who had provided input and comments.

It was moved by Member DuBois and seconded by Member Forester to “link” the AQAP with the I-710 EIR/EIS and that the AQAP will include the following analyses:

1. Health Impact Assessment
2. Construction Phasing Impacts Analysis on Air Quality
3. Near-Roadway Modeling
4. Community Medical Needs Assessment

The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Revised TAC Recommendation Regarding Alternative 6B

Bill Pagett, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, presented a report from the TAC recommending a revision to Alternative 6B (widen to 10 general purpose lanes and 4 freight movement lanes for zero emission trucks). He said the TAC had approved language recommended by the South Coast Air Quality Management District to replace the last sentence in the final paragraph description of Alternative 6B to read as follows: “The design of the freight corridor will also assume possible future conversion, or initial construction, as feasible (which may require additional environmental analysis and approval), of a fixed guideway family of alternative technologies (e.g., Maglev).”

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Forester, to approve the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee to amend the description of Alternative 6B. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. ITS Implementation Plan for Goods Movement

Jerry Wood presented a summary report on the status of an ITS Implementation Plan for goods movement that is currently being developed.

It was moved by Member Walter, seconded by Member Forester, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Comments from Committee Members

Jerry Wood announced that this would be the last meeting of Doug Failing as a Member of the Project Committee and that he had accepted the position of Director of Highway Programs for the MTA.

XI. Adjournment

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Daniels, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.