

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

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

January 28, 2010

I. Call to Order

Co-Chairman 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; Andy Molina, City of Huntington Park; Val Lerch, City of Long Beach; Ana Rosa Rizo, City of Maywood; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill; William Davis, City of Vernon; Phil Doudar, County of Los Angeles; Dr. Mike Walter, Port of Long Beach; Borja Leon, Port of Los Angeles; Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA; Rick Land, Caltrans; Karen Heit, MTA; Susan Seamans, SBCCOG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: George Mirabal, City of Bell; Jim Dear, City of Carson; Lillie Dobson, City of Compton; Maria T. Santillan, City of Lynwood; Rich Macias, SCAG; Barbara Messina, SGVCOG.

ALSO PRESENT: California Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing Dale Bonner; South Gate Councilmember Bill DeWitt; Bill Pagett, City Engineer, City of Paramount and City of Maywood, I-710 TAC Chair; Barbara Munoz, Director of Public Works, City of Signal Hill; Ron Kosinski, Caltrans; Garrett Damrath, Caltrans; Ernesto Chavez, Transportation Planner, Metro; Devon Cichoski, Metro; Roger Moliere, Metro; Susan Nakamura, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Richard Powers, Executive Director, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, Deputy Executive Director, GCCOG; Jerry Wood, GCCOG Engineer; Jack Waldron, Project Manager, URS; Dave Levinsohn, Deputy Project Manager, URS; Shannon Willits, Engineering Manager, URS; Rob McCann, President, LSA; Jayna Goodman, Senior Planner, LSA; Pat McLaughlin, Principal, MIG;

Esmeralda Garcia, Project Manager, MIG; Julia Lester, Environ International; Nancy Pfeffer, President, Network Public Affairs; Karl Rodenbaugh, The Planning Center; Bill Van Amburg, Senior Vice President, CALSTART; Lan Saadatnejadi, HDR.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Gurule led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

V. Public Comments

Aileen Ramos, Commerce resident, said she supports the East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.

Nathan Mata, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said he wants what is best for his community.

Andrea Hricko, USC Keck School of Public Health, said she is concerned about the lack of public participation.

Briana Pasillas, Commerce resident, said she wants the pollution to leave and that she supports East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.

Isella Ramirez, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, read a letter that urged that the Health Impact Statement be included as part of the EIR/EIS.

Candido Casillas, Communities for a Better Environment, said he is here to get more information and is concerned about the noise from the freeway.

Mark Lopez, Communities for a Better Environment, said he is concerned that information about the project is not getting out.

Sonny Roque, East Los Angeles resident, said that he supports East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.

VI. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Lerch, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 29, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Comments by Dale Bonner, Secretary of the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency of the State of California

California Business, Transportation, and Housing Secretary Dale Bonner addressed the Project Committee regarding the importance of the I-710 project to the State. He said the two San Pedro Bay ports are the main economic engines, but are also a source of the environmental problems. He said he knows people are dedicated to working on the solution.

Secretary Bonner said the state is looking at a public/private partnership to advance the project. He said \$6 billion is a very big project, equal to what the State of California spends annually throughout the state on transportation. He said the State wants to work with the Project Committee now to get closer to the project so that the State can help market the project throughout the world.

Secretary Bonner concluded by saying that the State is aware of the good that has been done here and that the State will insert itself to help move the project along. He said he hope the Project Committee will account for a lifetime of maintenance. He said he realizes how long a process like this takes.

VIII. Reports

A. Metro Presentation on Public/Private Funding Project Study for I-710

Roger Moliere addressed the Project Committee on Metro's study of a potential public/private funding strategy for the I-710 project. He said tax dollars will not be sufficient to deliver the project in a timely manner. Therefore, Metro is looking for potential additional dollars through private sources. He briefly described the respective roles and responsibilities of the public and private partners in such a relationship. He said MTA has retained a program management and advisory consulting team to perform this study.

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

B. Zero Emission Vehicles Presentation by CALSTART

Bill Van Amburg, Senior Vice President of CALSTART, gave a power point presentation on the state of the industry for zero emission trucks and vehicles and some ideas for incorporating those vehicles into the I-710 Freight Corridor. He said the technology is viable if there is a sustained effort to build marketability. He said there are real implications for the I-710 freeway.

Co-Chairman Hurtado asked what is meant by “zero emissions”. Mr. Van Amburg responded that it means no emissions at all out of the vehicle itself. However, at some point there will be emissions from the electrical generation source; but the reduction of emissions overall is significant.

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

C. I-710 Construction Staging Presentation

Jack Waldron, URS, gave a power point presentation on the results of the construction staging concepts studies prepared for the I-710 project. This analysis showed that it is possible to construct six segments of the I-710 project simultaneously over about an eight year period and could be considered as a construction phasing concept for the project. However, any construction phasing was a function of funding and would be considered speculative. .

Mr. Waldron presented the following timeline for the project:

- 2015/2016 complete design
- 2016/2019 property acquisition/utility relocations/right-of-way certification completed
- 2020/2029 construction years (all six segments under construction at one time)

Mr. Waldron then summarized the recommendations of the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee:

1. Concur with the project team that all six segments could be built simultaneously;

2. Find that this represents the “worst case scenario” for analyzing the air quality impacts from construction of the project;
3. Find that this construction would take place in an eight year period and that the project schedule is reasonable;
4. Find that the I-710 EIR/EIS will quantify the total construction emissions, but will not include AQ/HRA dispersion modeling of construction activities;
5. Find that the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) will provide for the additional analysis of construction related air quality health impacts for a “highest impact scenario” (or worst case scenario stated above) of all segments under construction in the years 2022 to 2025 along with a “more likely construction phasing scenario” (presumably 16 years total) and provide this as input into the I-710 EIR/EIS process; and
6. Concur that the results should be used in the I-710 Corridor Project Draft EIR/EIS.

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

Susan Nakamura, South Coast Air Quality Management District, said she was concerned that the EIR will not include the health effects of construction in the Health Risk Assessment.

It was moved by Member Walter, seconded by Member Leon, to concur with the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee and to include a Health Risk Assessment as part of recommendation number four. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. I-710 Community Advisory Committee Recommendation Continued from the Project Committee Meeting of October 29, 2009

Rob McCann, LSA, summarized the actions taken at the October 29, 2009, meeting of the Project Committee. He said that the Project Committee had approved the use of the SCAQMD thresholds within the CEQA Significance Thresholds, had continued the Near Source Modeling and Construction Impacts Analysis, and approved the Health Impact Assessment for inclusion in the Air Quality Action Plan.

Julia Lester, Environ, provided clarification on the Near Source Modeling and discussed the technical limitations on the accuracy

and validity of model results within 125 meters of the freeway. She said the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee was that the results of the review and analysis in the AQAP be reported to the Project Committee and used in the I-710 Corridor Draft EIR/EIS.

Julia Lester described the Construction Impact Analysis and how the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment will qualitatively discuss construction staging. However, she said, without detailed projections of construction activity and timing, calculating detailed emissions and performing a full AQ/HRA modeling and dispersion analysis is not technically feasible. She said the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee is that the results of this qualitative analysis in the AQAP be presented to the Project Committee and used in the I-710 Corridor Draft EIR/EIS.

Jerry Wood discussed the relationship of the Air Quality Action Plan to the I-710 EIR/EIS. He said the AQAP will address air quality and health concerns of the Gateway Cities subregion as a whole, but that it can help define desired air quality and health outcomes related to the I-710 and other projects. He said the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee is that the analyses and results of the AQAP be used in the I-710 Corridor Draft EIR/EIS.

David Martinez, South Gate resident, said he is concerned about pollution when running along the Los Angeles River. He said 16 lanes on the freeway would increase pollution. Jose Neri, South Gate resident, said he is concerned about the health effects of the freeway.

Andrea Hricko, USC Keck School of Public Health, said her main priority is the health impacts of being near highways and freeways. She said she has been asking that the Health Impact Assessment be part of the draft EIR/EIS.

Jocelyn Vivar, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, thanked the Project Committee for agreeing that there should be a Health Impact Assessment. She asked the Project Committee to revisit the issue and place the Health Impact Assessment in the EIR/EIS. She said she is confused by what linking the AQAP and EIR means.

Alan Porfirio, Communities for a Better Environment, said he breathes this air every day and want the Project Committee to consider the children that will be born in this area in the future.

Robert Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment, shared a report prepared by his organization on cumulative impacts. He said his organization wants the Health Impact Assessment as part of the EIR/EIS.

Carolina Cabrera, Communities for a Better Environment, said she is worried that nothing will be done that will actually clean the air.

Elina Nasser, UCLA School of Public Health, said she is concerned that near source modeling and construction impacts are now recommended to be in the AQAP and not the EIR/EIS.

Beatriz Reyes, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said she wants better outreach strategies and a demonstration of alternative technologies. Maria Reyes, Long Beach resident, said she is concerned about air quality and feels it is important to involve the community.

Elena Rodriguez, Long Beach resident, said it is very important, first, to continue with the Air Quality Action Plan. She said every meeting of the Project Committee should have a follow-up report to the community. She said public participation should be a priority.

Ian McMillan, South Coast Air Quality Management District, said a big problem with the AQAP is that it is a huge project and the timeline is long and won't be completed before the EIR/EIS.

Richard Ivey said that port expansion needs to be accomplished by near dock rail.

Julia Lester, Environ, said the EIR/EIS and AQAP are two different types of analysis. The EIR examines the project. She said we don't have the information at the level needed to include construction impacts in the EIR.

Jerry Wood said the AQAP will take about a year to complete. He said they are working hard to complete it at the same time as the EIR/EIS.

Member Rizo thanked Co-Chairman Hurtado for making it clear that the health of our residents is our priority. She said she is concerned that the Slauson interchange is still part of the project.

It was moved by Member Rizo, seconded by Member Lerch, to concur with the recommendations of the Community Advisory Committee and to include the Health Impact Assessment as part of the EIR/EIS.

Member Forester said it is too speculative to include the Health Impact Assessment in the EIR/EIS. He said it does not structurally belong there. He said there are too many "what ifs". Also, to say that nothing has been done ignores the ports' Clean Truck Program, which has been phenomenal.

Member Daniels asked how far away from the freeway the receptors would be. Julia Lester responded that they would be about 300 feet away.

Member Daniels said people are not aware of programs such as the Gateway Cities Clean Air Program.

Member Lerch said even if the Health Impact Assessment slows down the project by six or seven months we should still do it.

Rob McCann, LSA, said about 80% of the Health Impact Assessment will be included in the EIR/EIS; the other 20% is not related to the I-710 project and should not be included in an EIR, which is project specific.

Member Walter described the various projects at the two ports which have already significantly reduced pollution.

Member Aguilar said the perception by the local advisory committees that we are ignoring them is bothersome.

Member Seamans asked that the difference between a Health Risk Assessment and a Health Impact Assessment be clarified. Julia Lester, Environ, responded that a Health Risk Assessment is a formal, calculation procedure that looks at modeling and calculates concentrations of toxics and for air quality what the chances for cancer are. She said this is what is in the EIR. Jerry Wood explained that the Health Impact Assessment tries to tie different health impact pathways together, including noise and air pollution, and then prioritize.

Member Infanzon said the problem is that some the subject matter is very technical and difficult to understand by the public.

Ron Kosinski, Caltrans, said the environmental analysis for this project already exceeds what Caltrans normally does. He said the additional analysis from the Health Impact Assessment may not pass muster from the Caltrans attorneys.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Members Infanzon, Argumedo, Gurule, Guerrero, Lerch, Rizo, Davis, Doudar, Aguilar, and Co-Chairman Hurtado.

NOES: Members Bayer, Daniels, Forester, Walter, Leon, Land, and Heit.

ABSENT: Members Mirabal, Dear, Dobson, Santillan, Macias, and Messina.

NOTE VOTING: Member Seamans (ex-officio)

The motion was approved.

Member Seamans requested that an opinion of an attorney be sought as to the legality of the inclusion of the Health Impact Assessment in the EIR.

Member Leon said that in the future it would be helpful to have a CEQA lawyer present.

E. Status Report on I-710 EIR/EIS

Jack Waldron, URS, reviewed the schedule and current and completed tasks of the project.

Dave Levinsohn, URS, reviewed the traffic modeling reports' updated projections. He said the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation was that the higher truck projections be used and that Alternatives 6A and 6B include maximum truck volume lane assumptions, and that, in addition, Alternative 6B also include an additional technology option to increase the truck volumes per lane in the freight corridor for that alternative and address the geometric needs for this option.

Rob McCann, LSA, talked about the stormwater treatment approach in the EIR/EIS. Mr. McCann reviewed the overall status of the environmental studies and the other related studies.

Pat McLaughlin, MIG, reviewed the recent activities of the various advisory committees and subject working groups. She described the CEQA and NEPA outreach process and compared it to the I-710 EIR/EIS process and its greater opportunities for public participation.

Member Forester said that there should be a stormwater action plan.

Member Daniels asked how communities will be notified of open houses. Pat McLaughlin said the process will be similar to the scoping meetings. Devon Cichoski, Metro, said there will be mailings, news releases, postings on the Metro website, email "blasts" to those on the mailing list, and notices on buses and trains. Member Seamans said the local advisory committees can go to their cities because cities have ways to communicate with their residents.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Bayer, to receive and file the status reports and concur with the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Doudar said he is concerned that the traffic modeling shows service level F in the freight corridor at the north end of the freeway. It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Co-Chairman Hurtado, to give the task to the Technical Advisory Committee to look at this in conjunction with the MS-4. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Comments from Committee Members

Member Infanzon requested that copies of the PowerPoint presentations be included in future agenda packets.

X. Adjournment

It was moved by Member Lerch, seconded by Member Forester, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 p.m.