

**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**

July 29, 2010

I. Call to Order

Co-Chairman Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Self-Introductions

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate, Co-Chair; Bob Foster, City of Long Beach, Co-Chair; Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens; Hugo Argumedo, City of Commerce; Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy; Anne Bayer, City of Downey; Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park; Ana Rosa Rizo, City of Maywood; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill; Kevin Wilson, City of Vernon; Patrick De Chellis, County of Los Angeles; Dr. Mike Walter, Port of Long Beach; Borja Leon, Port of Los Angeles; Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA; Garrett Damrath, Caltrans; Diane DuBois, MTA.

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; Susan Seamans, SBCCOG (ex officio).

ALSO PRESENT: South Gate Councilmember Bill DeWitt; Jorge Rifa, City Administrator, City of Commerce; Bill Pagett, City Engineer, City of Paramount, I-710 TAC Chair; Mark Christoffels, City Engineer, City of Long Beach; Mohammad Mostahkami, City Engineer, City of South Gate; Phil Doudar, Department of Public Works, County of Los Angeles; Doug Failing, Executive Director of Highway Programs, MTA; Linda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer, MTA; Ernesto Chaves, Transportation Planner, MTA; Adrian Alvarez, Project Manager, MTA; Richard D. Jones, General Counsel, GCCOG; Ivy Tsai, Deputy General Counsel, 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; Esmeralda Garcia, Project Manager, MIG; Julia Lester, Environ International; Scott Broen, ICF International; Michael Ippoliti, Clean Transportation Solutions Director, CALSTART; Elaine Carbrey, Gruen Associates.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Rizo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

V. Public Comments

Erika Olvera, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, thanked the Project Committee for its vote to include a health impact assessment in the EIR/EIS and said she hoped the Committee would continue to support them.

Elena Rodriguez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, thanked the Project Committee for its vote on the health impact assessment.

Yolanda Lopez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, thanked the Project Committee for its vote on the health impact assessment. She said it is important for the children who have asthma.

Martha Cota, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said she thanked those who were convinced that it was important to do the environmental analysis for public health. She thanked Mayor Foster for attending the meeting.

Monica Parrilla, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, thanked the Project Committee for its vote on the health impact assessment. She said that besides that one vote the Committee needs to continue to make good decisions on their behalf.

Julia Scoville, Communities for a Better Environment, said she considers I-710 as a "homicide highway" because of the trucks. She urged consideration of other forms of energy to transport cargo.

Dr. Clyde Williams, El Sereno, said he hopes the people working on the EIR have coordinated with the EIR being done at the Port of Los Angeles. He said the problem at the north end of the freeway is that different things are being done than are said. He encouraged an economic impact assessment be included.

Alan Porfirio thanked the Project Committee for including the health impact assessment in the EIR.

Joel Magdaleno said the Project Committee's job is to represent the community and include the health impact assessment in the EIR.

Jennifer Ganata, Communities for a Better Environment, said she sees trucks daily leaving the ports and understands that a health impact assessment is important.

Jose Neri, Communities for a Better Environment, said that a health impact assessment is needed to see how the freeway impacts health.

Jonathan Fariel encouraged the Project Committee to keep the community in mind in its decisions.

VI. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Lerch, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2010. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Reports

Air Quality Action Plan

Adrian Alvarez, MTA Project Manager, gave some background on the Air Quality Action Plan, announcing that ICF International had been awarded the contract to perform the project. He introduced Scott Broen of ICF, who gave a summary of the work to be performed for the Air Quality Action Plan. He said the tasks in the Air Quality Action Plan project go above and beyond what is required in the EIR. He briefly described the tasks involved with the Health Impact Assessment. He estimated that a draft is estimated to be completed by the end of November.

Gideon Kracov, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said that CEQA law does not allow handing off the Health Impact Assessment to another agency to perform.

Berthalina Chavac, Huntington Park, asked the Project Committee to think of the future generations.

Rajiv Bhatia, San Francisco Department of Public Health, congratulated the Project Committee on doing the Health Impact Assessment and offered his assistance.

Maya Golden-Krasner, Communities for a Better Environment, said there is precedence for doing a health impact assessment under CEQA.

Robert Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment, commended the Project Committee for its actions on the Health Impact Assessment. He asked for clarification on how separate the Health Impact Assessment is from the EIR. Mr. Broen responded that they had developed their schedule independently of the EIR. He said, however, that the EIR will have data that they will need to complete their study.

Member Forester complimented the project team that was put together for the Air Quality Action Plan and Health Impact Assessment. He said their timeline for completion matches the EIR.

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

B. Zero Emission Vehicles Implementation Study

Michael Ippoliti, Clean Transportation Solutions Director, CALSTART, gave a PowerPoint presentation on a program design for market transformation to enable an I-710 zero-emission freight corridor. He described CALSTART as a public-private partnership to launch and grow a clean transportation industry. He said CALSTART is examining the commercial viability of zero-emission freight movement vehicles. He described the advancement in the development of hybrid and zero-emission trucks.

Mr. Ippoliti said that market “pull” and market development are critical. He said zero-emission trucks are a reality, but not yet in the use for cargo transport. He said CALSTART has begun a four stage process of moving designs out of research and development and into tech development, demonstration, and early deployment.

Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said that Alternative 6b does not have certainty that it will be used by zero-emission trucks. He said a corridor that is exclusively for zero-emission trucks needs to be examined.

Bob Eula, Commerce, said he concurred with Mr. Logan’s statement. He said he used to support Maglev, but he now believes that zero-emission trucks are the way to go. He said the noise and pollution from the rail yards are horrendous.

Member Rizo asked about the enforcement plan for zero-emission trucks in the freight corridor. Mr. Ippoliti said that we don’t know yet how to do this.

Member Leon thanked Mr. Ippoliti and Mr. Logan for their comments. He said the City and Port of Los Angeles have been working on other technologies, but have an RFP out now for electric trucks.

Member Walter applauded the idea of zero-emission trucks. He said the Port of Long Beach is working with the Port of Los Angeles, but POLA is the lead. He asked if CALSTART is working with the Port of Los Angeles. Mr. Ippoliti replied that they have worked in the past with the Port on electric vehicle projects. Member Walter encouraged CALSTART to continue working with the two ports. He said the technology must first be proven within the port itself. He said magnetic levitation also needs to be looked at.

Co-Chairman Foster said he wished to make a point of clarification. He said the study the ports are working on is separate and distinct from what CALSTART is looking at. He said the ports are looking at a fixed guideway, not a truck system. He said the port answer is just one piece of the solution.

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

C. I-710 Urban Design Concepts

Esmeralda Garcia, MIG, said that this study came out of the Major Corridor Study, where aesthetics was adopted as a major concern of the Tier II Community Advisory Committee. She introduced Elaine Carbrey, Gruen Associates, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on preliminary aesthetic and urban design concepts for the I-710 corridor. She discussed the overall theme to weave the transportation, river, and energy corridors into the communities and create a sustainable corridor.

Ms. Carbrey described opportunities for greening and landscaping, giving examples of potential landscaping enhancements. She described other potential sculptural enhancements such as sound walls with vines, screen walls, bridges, and aesthetic treatment of bents or columns. She gave examples of enhancements to arterials in the corridor, including bicycle and pedestrian connections, street trees and other landscaping, public art, pedestrian lighting, and railings and guard rails. Additionally, potential enhancements for the freight corridor, using lighting, screening, and landscaping were presented.

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

D. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Engineering Report

Jack Waldron, URS, gave a status report on the engineering studies and discussed the project schedule. He said the project team is now 29 months into the 43 month baseline schedule, but he described three major reasons why the project's schedule is now being delayed: 1) the I-710 schedule is being impacted by delays to the I-5 schedule; 2) requests for project changes have been received from the cities of South Gate and Commerce; and 3) requests for utility relocation changes have been received from Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Mr. Waldron summarized the work that had been completed since the January meeting of the Project Committee and discussed the current tasks and studies being undertaken.

Co-Chairman Foster asked if the utility relocations involve the California Independent System Operator (ISO). Mr. Waldron responded that he was not certain, but in addition to Southern California Edison and the Department of Water and Power there are 49 other companies, so it probably would involve the ISO.

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

E. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Environmental Report

Rob McCann, LSA, said that he first wanted to clarify for the record a misunderstanding stated by a previous speaker. Mr. McCann said that Alternative 6b does assume zero emission technology in the freight corridor. He said the language regarding future conversion refers to possible future conversion to a fixed guideway, not conversion to zero emission technology. He said only the exact technology has not been designed.

Mr. McCann said that since the January Project Committee meeting the project team had submitted draft technical studies and the EIR/EIS for I-710 funding partner agency review and had responded to comments. He said focused review meetings with the partner agencies had been conducted. Mr. McCann said the work ahead included preparing final technical studies to respond to the partner agencies' comments and to prepare a revised EIR/EIS and submit for Caltrans' approval to circulate for public review.

Dr. Clyde Williams, El Sereno, asked what the corridor's limits are. Mr. McCann responded that it is defined as I-710 from the ports to SR-60. He

said the Air Quality Action Plan goes beyond I-710 to the whole Gateway Cities subregion.

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

F. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Community Participation Report

Esmeralda Garcia, MIG, reviewed the community participation activities that had taken place since the January meeting of the Project Committee. She said the recent areas of focus had been on geometrics, community enhancements, and community information and education. She summarized the meetings of the Corridor Advisory Committee, the local advisory committees, and the subject working groups.

Dr. Clyde Williams, El Sereno, expressed concern about the public information process.

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

G. I-710 Corridor Project Changes and Revision to Scope of Work

Ernesto Chaves, MTA, presented a report detailing a series of project changes that would affect the project schedule and scope of work. He described these changes as:

1. A design change at the north end of the project. He said the larger truck volumes caused a need to re-look at the previous design.
2. A request from the City of Commerce to have the Washington Blvd. interchange remains open. This is not in the current design.
3. A request from the City of South Gate to have the freight corridor connection to Miller Way changed to Patata Street.
4. Design changes related to the utilities, which have not yet agreed to a strategy that is acceptable to them.
5. Examination of the feasibility of a tolling alternative.

Mr. Chaves said the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee had approved these changes and recommended them for approval by the Project Committee. He said these changes could result in a delay of eleven months at a cost of \$3.8 million, requiring additional funding. He said the funding partners will take this up at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Peter Delgado, Commerce Casino, spoke in favor of keeping the Washington Blvd. interchange open.

Dr. Clyde Williams, Los Angeles, asked about public involvement in the process. He asked if the study looked at the BNSF project.

Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said he was speaking on behalf of the Ayers neighborhood in Commerce. He said it needs special consideration because the Washington Blvd. interchange could impact 100 homes. He said lots of people are opposed to this. He said the study needs to include a housing strategy.

Eddie Tafoya, Commerce Industrial Council, distributed a letter from the Industrial Council in support of keeping the Washington Blvd. interchange. He said the Commerce Industrial Council is made up of 1,700 businesses and that they are in favor of keeping the on and off ramps open at Washington Blvd.

Member Rizo said she would not support any change that would displace 100 homes.

Member DeChellis asked for clarification of the requested change regarding the Washington Blvd. interchange. Doug Failing, MTA, responded that the change would be to include Washington Blvd. on and off ramps as an alternative.

Member Aguilar said the City of Commerce understands the relocation issue. He said that neighborhood is a pocket surrounded by railroads and freeways. He said we would actually be helping those people by taking them out of that unhealthy situation.

Member Argumedo said that the City of Commerce has had a number of community meetings on this subject and the City has included a provision for a housing strategy to relocate them within the city.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Co-Chairman Foster, to receive and file the status reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Guerrero, to concur with the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee recommendations for modification of scope of work and schedule and associated budget modifications. The motion was approved with Member Rizo opposed.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Forester, to forward the changes to the Executive Committee for concurrence and recommendation to the MTA Board of Directors to modify the consultant contracts accordingly. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. A. Comments from Committee Members

Member Guerrero said the Project Committee should meet sooner than the six months since the last meeting. Co-Chairman Hurtado responded that the next meeting would be held in two months on September 30th.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:07 p.m.