

GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS Transportation Committee

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
4:30 p. m. Meeting

Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard, 1st Floor Conference Room
Paramount, California

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 Transportation Committee will hear from the public on any item on the agenda or an item of interest that is not on the agenda. The Transportation 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 Transportation Committee, and each speaker will only have one opportunity to speak on any one topic. You have the opportunity to address the Transportation Committee at the following times:

- A. AGENDA ITEM: at this time the Transportation 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 Transportation 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. MATTERS FROM STAFF

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR: All items under the Consent Calendar may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar and acted upon separately by the Transportation Committee.

- A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the Transportation Committee Meeting of October 5, 2011, is presented for approval. Approval receives and files the minutes of October 5, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ACTION:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM.

VIII. REPORTS

***Note-This meeting will focus on bringing the Committee up to date on the development of the Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan; the regular reports & updates will resume in December.**

- A. MTA Board Recap by Director DuBois

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

- B. Nomination of Community Member to the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

- C. Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Briefing by Andrew Papson, ICF

1. I-710 Construction Staging Emissions Final Report
2. Final Draft HIA Report – Executive Summary

SUGGESTED ACTION: A MOTION TO HEAR REPORT, POSSIBLE ACTION AND/OR GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF

[Draft1_HIA_092311_ES .pdf](#)

X. MATTERS FROM TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: New items will not be considered after 5:30 p.m. unless the Transportation Committee votes to extend the time limit. Any items on the agenda that are not completed will be forwarded to the next regular Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 4:30 PM.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE 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 GATEWAY CTITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Chair - MTA Director Diane DuBois**

**Gateway Cities COG Office
16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723
October 5, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER: MTA Director Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. Roll-call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT Diane DuBois – MTA Director, Gene Daniels – Paramount, Mohammad Mostakhami – South Gate, Ron Bates – Pico Rivera, Ken Farfsing – Signal Hill, Julie Moore – Office of Supervisor Don Knabe, Tom Modica – City of Long Beach, Ray Dunton – City of Bellflower

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Stan Carroll – La Habra Heights, Eric Shen – Port of Long Beach, Dana Lee – Long Beach Transit

OTHERS PRESENT: Niki Tennant – Office of Assemblymember Lowenthal, Richard Powers – COG Staff, Jerry Wood – COG Staff, Karen Heit – COG Staff, Nancy Pfeffer – COG Staff, David Hershenson – MTA, Wally Shidler – Gateway Cities Service Sector, Yvette Kirrin – I-5 JPA, Juan Carlos Velasquez – CH2MHill, Michelle Banks – CH2MHill

Minutes were approved as presented. Director DuBois announced that she would be presenting decisions from two MTA Board Meetings. She announced the August approval of the MTA Green Construction Policy and that the policy would not apply to all MTA funded projects (such as Local Return projects) and that the policy would be phased in through a collaborative process with the cities.. She moved on to the September Board where the Project Labor Agreement /Construction Careers Program was approved – she pointed out that she negotiated for the extension of the CCP employment priority to extend to census tracts with 150-200% unemployment (over the County average). She discussed the MTA taking on the Caltrans owned park-n-ride-lots to make them more attractive to use by commuters. This policy affects most Metro Green Line lots. The Artesia station was mentioned as problem area with vendors – David Hershenson volunteered to pass on to the Sheriff if vendors are a problem.

Karen Heit reviewed the efforts currently underway for the MTA/Caltrans graffiti abatement demo effort. The MTA was in the process of procuring a landscape architect and will engage the I-710 TAC for input. She also indicated that the MTA/Caltrans and UP were going to meet and try and resolve securing access to the rail bridges. Assemblymember Lowenthal’s Chief Deputy volunteered to assist with Caltrans and CHP if asked.

Andrew Papson, ICF, Project Manager for the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) reviewed the results of three of the I-710 Project Committee requested reports that may be considered for inclusion into the I-710 Corridor EIR/EIS should Caltrans make that determination. He reviewed the Near-Roadway Modeling Research, the Ultrafine Particle Research and the Community Medical Needs Assessment in details and answered questions. The results of these studies were presented to the Environmental Committee for comment on September 28th.

A question was asked as to where these reports would appear, will they be included as part of the EIR/EIS. The full reports will be available, if accepted by Caltrans as part of the Draft EIR/EIS process. A Motion was made to forward the report summaries on to the GCCOG Board for inclusion into and then on to the project team for

David Hershenson announced the citizen vacancy for the Gateway Cities Sector Service Council was posted on the GCCOG web site.

Yvette Kirrin, I-5 JPA Executive Director, announced that the Carmenita work was underway and traffic will be impacted on the I-5, Rosecrans and Alondra are also moving forward and funding is being sought on the I-5 from the I-605 to the I-710.

Jerry Wood, COG Engineer reported on the I-710 project environmental work which is still due to be released in Spring of 2012.

Karen Heit gave the progress report on the OLDA project, indicating that the Alternatives Analysis was entering the refinement stage and that there would be workshops scheduled for next year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

VIII. Reports
Item C
Gateway Cities Air Quality Action
Plan (AQAP) Briefing by
Andrew Papson, ICF

1. I-710 Construction Staging Emissions
Final Report

TO: Transportation Committee

FROM: Diane DuBois, MTA Director

BY: Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy

SUBJECT: I-710 Construction Staging Emissions Final Results, Presentation by Andrew Papon, ICF

Background

The I-710 Corridor Project Committee which has been coordinating community involvement and input with the development of the I-710 Corridor environmental process (EIR/EIS) for the past three years directed staff to produce the following studies for potential inclusion into the I-710 environmental process and documents.

These I-710 Corridor specific products are:

1. Community Medical Needs Assessment
2. I-710 Near Roadway Modeling Assessment
3. I-710 Ultrafine Particulate Matter
4. I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Emissions
5. I-710 Health Impact Assessment

The GCCOG Transportation Committee and GCCOG Board received and reviewed findings and results from the first three reports in September. These products have been forwarded to Caltrans, the lead agency for the I-710 Corridor Environmental process, who will determine if they will be incorporated into the I-710 environmental documents. The final two I-710 products; I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Emissions Report and I-710 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) are up for consideration with this agenda.

Issue

At the October 26th meeting, the Environmental Committee considered the Construction Staging Emissions Report. A summary of the I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Emissions Report will be presented, the purpose of which is to estimate the emissions output during the construction of the I-710 improvements over the next 17 years. The construction period has been divided into seven time segments and emissions rates were calculated for three emission types: NO_x, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The preliminary findings show

when emissions will exceed the state and federal recommended threshold amount and by how much.

The Environmental Committee report is attached. The Committee concurred with the recommendations made by the Roundtables with the addition of the *italicized language on #3*:

1. Concur with the findings from the Construction Staging Emission Analysis.
2. Suggest to Caltrans that the MTA Construction Green Equipment policy be adopted for the construction of any major freeway work.
3. Suggest to Caltrans that a construction emission analysis be prepared for each segment (and for any segments that are being constructed concurrently) prior to actual construction proceeding. Those results are to be used to develop final recommendations so that construction of the segment does not exceed significance thresholds established at that time and that additional mitigation measures be developed to reduce any emissions to the greatest extent possible – *taking into consideration impacts on surrounding communities.*
4. Request Caltrans to develop construction methods and staging to keep NOx emissions below significance thresholds and to develop additional watering methods as suggested in the report to reduce fugitive dust PM2.5 from the construction of any segment.
5. Recommend that the Environmental Committee forward the I-710 Construction Staging Emissions Analysis Report to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans for use in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Transportation Committee consider the actions taken by the Environmental Committee, provide input and forward this report to the GCCOG Board of Directors.

Attachment

Environmental Committee Staff Report

TO: Environmental Committee

FROM: Richard, Powers, Executive Director, Gateway Cities COG

BY: Jerry R. Wood, Director of Transportation and Engineering, Gateway Cities COG

SUBJECT: I-710 Construction Staging Emissions Analysis Final Report

Background

At the October 29, 2009 meeting of the I-710 Project Committee (PC), the PC voted to unanimously “link” the Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) with the I-710 EIR/EIS by including a Construction Phasing Impacts Emission Analysis on Air Quality for the I-710 Corridor Project. However, the PC decided at this meeting to defer action on the construction impacts to its subsequent meeting on January 28, 2010. At its January 28, 2010 meeting the PC voted to concur with the Corridor Advisory Committee’s (CAC’s) recommendations that included the construction staging and phasing emissions analysis. Therefore, per the direction of the PC, a construction staging plan and an emission analysis of that plan was prepared.

Issue

The Gateway Cities staff prepared a construction staging and phasing plan for the entire project. That plan was presented to the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee in May, 2011. The Plan was approved and formed the basis for the emission analysis. ICF prepared the emission analysis and the results of their analysis have been presented to the AQAP Technical and Advisory Roundtables.

Findings

Emissions were calculated for the Construction Staging and Phasing Plan, and the results indicate the following:

- Emissions from Construction Diesel Exhaust, namely Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 & PM 10 will not exceed the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) significance thresholds for any segment,
- Fugitive dust from Construction, namely PM 2.5 and PM 10 will exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds at a few segments, and
- NOx will also exceed the AQMD significance thresholds at a few segments.

None of the other pollutants analyzed by this study have any impacts on other significance thresholds.

These results were reviewed with the Roundtables and the following recommendations were made to them:

1. Concur with the findings from the Construction Staging and Phasing Emission Analysis.
2. Suggest to Caltrans that the Metro's recently adopted Green Construction policy be adopted for the construction of any major freeway work.
3. Suggest to Caltrans that a construction emission analysis be prepared for each segment (and for any segments that are being constructed concurrently) prior to actual construction proceeding. Those results are to be used to develop final recommendations so that construction of the segment does not exceed significance thresholds established at that time and that additional mitigation measures be developed to reduce any emissions to the greatest extent possible.
4. Request Caltrans to develop construction methods and staging to keep NOx emissions below significance thresholds and to develop additional watering methods as suggested in the report to reduce fugitive dust PM2.5 and PM10 from the construction of any segment.
5. Recommend that the Environmental Committee forward the I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Emissions Analysis Report to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans for use in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

The AQAP Technical and Advisory Roundtables reviewed these recommendations and concurred with them.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Environmental Committee concur with the recommendations of the AQAP Roundtables and recommend to the Transportation Committee and the COG Board to forward the report to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans as recommended by the AQAP Roundtables.

**VIII. Reports
Item C
Gateway Cities Air Quality Action
Plan (AQAP) Briefing by
Andrew Papson, ICF**

**2. Final Draft HIA Report – Executive
Summary
(Report Attached)**

TO: Transportation Committee

FROM: Diane DuBois, MTA Director

BY: Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy

SUBJECT: I-710 HIA Final Draft HIA Report Executive Summary by Andrew Papson, ICF

Background

The development of the HIA was assisted by the HIA Technical Working Group (TWG) of public agency health and environmental staffs who met three times to provide input on scoping for the HIA and the preparation of the HIA. They recommended the following 5 goals for the I-710 HIA:

1. Provide I-710 decision-makers and other stakeholders with positive and negative health effects, findings and recommendations for alternatives being considered.
2. Increase stakeholder participation and understanding of the I-710 project.
3. Identify community health concerns/issues within Gateway Cities and their relationship to the I-710 Corridor Project.
4. Provide a model for future transportation and infrastructure HIAs (including evidence and utility of doing an HIA).
5. Add value to the I-710 related analyses while utilizing the I-710 EIR/EIS technical data in the HIA to the greatest extent possible to reduce redundancy.

Issue

An extensive and intense amount of work has been done by the consultant, Human Impact Partners, the project team, the Roundtables and community groups to develop the HIA. They are all to be commended on this extensive effort. This HIA is the first of its kind for such a large infrastructure project. The input of the Environmental and Transportation committees and the subsequent discussions of the findings and recommendations have helped define the HIA. The Roundtables, Environmental Committee, COG staff and consultant team have agreed that a Peer Review process is necessary to validate this groundbreaking HIA process. The Peer Review process will also assist with providing answers to the fourth goal.

The attached COG staff report to the October Environmental Committee highlights some of the differing opinions about the results presented in the HIA. Some of these areas of disagreement have been resolved since the writing of the Environmental Committee report.

On October 26th, the Environmental Committee received the findings and recommendation from the HIA as well as the recommendations from the Roundtables. After much discussion, the Environmental Committee approved forwarding the following amended recommendation to the Transportation Committee and COG Board for concurrence:

- A. Authorize an independent Peer Review process (as outlined in the COG staff report) of the work product, Health Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared by Human impact Partners, and;
- B. The Peer Review shall include inputs and comments from the Technical Working Group and the Roundtables and committees, and:
- C. At the conclusion of the Peer Review, a final draft HIA report shall be produced and submitted to the COG Board for consideration, and by decision of the COG Board be submitted to Caltrans.
- D. The work product HIA report to be Peer Reviewed may be forwarded to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans prior to finalization, for information purposed only.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Transportation Committee consider the actions taken by the Environmental Committee, provide input and forward this report to the GCCOG Board of Directors.

Attachment

Environmental Committee Staff Report

TO: Environmental Committee

FROM: Richard, Powers, Executive Director, Gateway Cities COG

BY: Jerry R. Wood, Director of Transportation and Engineering, Gateway Cities COG

SUBJECT: I-710 HIA Final Draft Report

Background

At its October 29, 2009 Meeting, the I-710 Project Committee (PC) voted unanimously to approve “linking” the Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) with the I-710 EIR/EIS to include the following analyses:

1. Health Impact Assessment
2. Construction Staging and Phasing Emission Analysis
3. Near –Roadway Modeling
4. Ultrafines Research
5. Community Medical Needs Assessment

At this same meeting, the I-710 Project Committee had a presentation from members of the I-710 Community Advisory Committees (CAC) on the first three items listed above. The CAC recommended those items to the PC. The PC concurred with the CAC recommendation with two exceptions: substitute “use” for “adopt” with regard to the SCAQMD’s air quality significance thresholds and defer action on the near-roadway modeling and construction impact to the January 28, 2010 PC meeting. The CAC recommendations for near-roadway modeling also included a request to research and report back on the status of Ultrafines.

At its January 28, 2010 meeting, the PC voted to concur with the CAC’s recommendations and to ask that the HIA be included in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

Issue

The Near-Roadway Modeling Results, the Ultrafines Research Report and the Community Medical Needs Assessment were forwarded to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans as recommended by the September, 2011, Environmental Committee (EC) Meeting and subsequently concurred with by both the Transportation Committee and the COG Board of Directors.

The Construction Staging Emissions Analysis Report was addressed previously at this EC Meeting.

Therefore, the purpose of this staff report is to provide analysis and recommendations for the remaining item requested by the PC – the HIA Draft Final Report.

Previous Actions and Work

Previously, the HIA Technical Working Group (TWG) met three times to provide input on scoping and preparation of the HIA. They recommended the following five goals for the I-710 HIA:

1. Provide I-710 decision-makers and other stakeholders with positive and negative health effects, findings and recommendations for alternatives being considered.
2. Increase stakeholder participation and understanding of the I-710 project.
3. Identify community health concerns/issues within Gateway Cities and their relationship to the I-710 Corridor Project.
4. Provide a model for future transportation and infrastructure HIAs (including evidence and utility of doing an HIA).
5. Add value to the I-710 related analyses while utilizing the I-710 EIR/EIS technical data in the HIA to the greatest extent possible to reduce redundancy.

These goals were then presented to the AQAP Advisory and Technical Roundtables, who discussed and considered the goals, without making any changes.

After establishing the goals, the HIA TWG provided input on the health determinants to be assessed in the I-710 HIA. Seventeen health determinants were proposed and evaluated resulting in a narrowing down to the following six health determinants:

- Air Quality
- Noise
- Mobility
- Traffic Safety
- Jobs and Economic Development
- Neighborhood resources (parks, food, healthcare, etc.)

Following this determination, pathways were developed to be used in assessing the health outcomes for these health determinants. . These pathways and the health determinants were then reviewed and commented on by the HIA TWG, and the Advisory and Technical Roundtables. The pathways were finalized as a result of these meetings.

The Final Draft HIA Report has been completed and key findings have been presented to the HIA TWG and the two Roundtables, including the analyses and the recommendations presented by the author – Human Impact Partners (HIP). An extensive and intense amount of work has been done by HIP, the Project Team, and the stakeholder groups, to develop the HIA. They are all to be commended on this extensive effort. This HIA is the first of its kind for a large infrastructure project. Because of this fact, COG staff believes that it is deliberate and prudent to validate this process before reaching any conclusions, recommendations or outcomes for the HIA. As indicated from the input received from the various committees and the subsequent findings, discussions, and the

attached COG staff report, there are differing opinions on the results presented in the HIA by Human Impact Partners (HIP), as well as areas of concurrence and disagreements.

Recently the National Research Council authored a study entitled: *“Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment”*. The preliminary findings from their work is summarized below:

“Although HIA is different from primary scientific research, the committee concludes that several aspects of the HIA process could benefit from peer review. Peer review could highlight overlooked issues, identify opportunities to improve data or methods, and increase the legitimacy of conclusions and their acceptance and utility in the decision-making process. A formal peer-review process would need to overcome several obstacles, such as the possible difficulties in assembling a multidisciplinary team that would be needed to perform the review, the substantial delays that could occur in the process, and the current lack of agreed-on evaluation criteria. However, an HIA is often conducted on proposals that are contested among polarized and disparate interests and stakeholders and accusations of bias can arise. Independent peer review could help to ensure that the process by which HIA is conducted and the conclusions and recommendations produced are as impartial, credible, and scientifically valid as possible. The committee notes, however, that some flexibility in the peer-review process would be necessary particularly for cases in which an HIA must be completed rapidly to be relevant to the decision that it is intended to inform.”

The National Research Council study went further in detailing ideas for incorporating HIA into the EIR/EIS process.

Findings Summary

The Executive Summary of the findings of HIP for the HIA is attached (Attachment A). The basis for these recommendations were examined in detail by the HIA TWG who had many questions, concerns and disagreements with the basis of analysis and some of the recommendations. There were strong feelings that the proportionality of the I-710 with respect to many of the HIA findings, analysis and recommendations needs to be clarified. They suggested, for example, that a preamble (Attachment B) be placed in front of the mobility section of the HIA. As a result of the TWG input, many areas of disagreement, conclusions and recommendations in the HIA were reconciled.

However, there are still areas of concern as well as unresolved issues expressed from some members of the TWG, and others who have participated in this process, including the COG staff and the Project Team, on some of the analyses and recommendations in the HIA. There are also other members of the Roundtables who support these analyses and recommendations. It has been concluded that there is not sufficient time to be able to complete the HIA within the established Project milestones, and forward it to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans in light of this current situation. See Attachment C for a compilation of various issues where COG staff disagrees with the analyses and recommendations presented by HIP in the HIA.

The recommendation at this time is to forward the final HIA to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans for their information only without comment from the Gateway Cities COG and to proceed to establish a peer review process to be completed as soon as is possible.

This recommendation is based on the National Research Council's study on their examinations of the role for HIA and the magnitude of the HIA for the I-710 Corridor Project. This peer review process would be designed to be transparent utilizing qualified firms and individuals. The intent would be to complete the HIA peer review prior to the end of the review period for the Draft I-710 EIR/EIS. The peer review would then result in a companion document to the HIA that could be processed through the AQAP participation process and then used as deemed appropriate as part of the comments on the Draft I-710 EIR/EIS by the Gateway Cities and other interested parties. This would be consistent with the request of the I-710 Project Committee to prepare the HIA for consideration in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Environmental Committee ask the Transportation Committee and the COG Board to

- a. Acknowledge that the final draft HIA report is completed in accordance with its current schedule and forwarded to the I-710 Project Team and Caltrans. And:
- b. Authorize a peer review process (as outlined in the attached COG staff report) of the final draft HIA. And:
- c. This Peer Review shall include input and comments from the TWG and Roundtables committees. And:
- d. Through the Peer Review Process, produce a companion document to the final draft HIA report for distribution and consideration by Caltrans and others.