

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
I-710 CORRIDOR PROJECT EIR/EIS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA
November 16, 2011**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Pagett at 1:40 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Bill Pagett, City of Paramount and City of Maywood, Chair; Steve Hilton, City of Bell Gardens; Victor Rollinger, City of Carson; Alex Hamilton, City of Commerce; Mark Christoffels, City of Long Beach; Elias Saikaly, City of Lynwood; Charlie Honeycutt, City of Signal Hill; Mohammad Mostahkami, City of South Gate; Kevin Wilson, City of Vernon; James Yang, County of Los Angeles; Garrett Damrath, Caltrans; Ernesto Chaves, MTA; Kerry Cartwright, POLA; Art Goodwin, ACTA (ex officio); Garry Garrigue, SCE (ex officio); Michael Mercado, LADWP (ex officio).

ABSENT: Carlos Alvarado, City of Bell; Representative from City of Compton; Sal Bolivar, City of Cudahy; Ed Norris, City of Downey; Wes Lind, City of Huntington Park; Jacob Waclaw, FHWA & FTA; Eric Shen, POLB; Tommi Tyler, CHP; Phillip Law, SCAG; Peter Greenwald, SCAQMD.

Other attendees included: Abdi Saghafi, Caltrans; Mario Gutierrez, Caltrans; Adrian Alvarez, MTA; JD Douglas, InfraConsult; Jack Waldron, URS; Elizabeth Mahoney, URS; Rob McCann LSA; David Tatsumi, LSA; Esmeralda Garcia, MIG; Michelle Boehm, CH²MHill; Wayne Richardson, MARRS Services; Jack Joseph, GCCOG.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charlie Honeycutt.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VI. Matters from Staff

There were no matters from the staff.

VII. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Steve Hilton, seconded by Victor Rollinger, to approve the minutes of September 26, 2011, with an amendment showing that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was present at that meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports

A. I-710 Project Committee Report

Ernesto Chaves, MTA, reported that the November meeting of the Project Committee had been cancelled for lack of a quorum. Jack Joseph, GCCOG, said that the Committee would be surveyed to see what date in January works best for a meeting. It was moved by Kevin Wilson, seconded by Mohammad Mostahkami, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Engineering Report on I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS

Jack Waldron of URS gave a power point that overviewed the status of the engineering for the project. He discussed the various technical reports that are due to be submitted in final form this month. He reviewed the schedule for the release of the draft EIR/EIS, which is on schedule for release in early 2012.

Mohammad Mostahkami asked if a decision had been made as to the review period for the EIR. Garrett Damrath responded that Caltrans is not considering extending it beyond past 60 days until they see the document. Caltrans will make the determination then as to whether an extension of the review period past 60 days is justified.

Mohammad Mostahkami asked what the policy would be regarding translating the EIR executive summary into other languages. Jack Joseph responded that the COG's policy in the past has been to follow the guidelines of the Voting Rights Act, which requires election materials to be translated into another language in cases where 5% of the population speaks a particular language other than English and are not proficient in English. Using that guideline, he said, there are four language groups in one or more of the cities that meet those criteria: Spanish; Tagalog; Vietnamese; and Khmer.

Art Goodwin asked when there would be a financial plan for the project. Ernesto Chaves responded that a public/private partnership study is underway, but it is not part of the EIR.

Mohammad Mostahkami and Bill Pagett asked when cities would be able to view the plans for arterial intersections. Bill Pagett said they need to be presented by the next meeting of the TAC. He said URS should have cost estimates on the intersections in the final report. He said he wants to make sure that cities' comments are included.

It was moved by Kerry Cartwright, seconded by Mohammad Mostahkami, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Environmental Studies Report on the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS

Rob McCann of LSA gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the status of the environmental reports and documents, and reviewed the draft technical studies that have been completed for funding partner review. He summarized the paleontological identification and evaluation report. Mr. McCann then reviewed the upcoming schedule of activities in process.

Art Goodwin said that they need to be concerned about Native American resources. Mr. McCann responded that those are archaeological, rather than paleontological, concerns and would be touched on later.

It was moved by Charlie Honeycutt, seconded by Mark Christoffels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Esmeralda Garcia of MIG gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the recent community participation meetings.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Charlie Honeycutt, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Noise Study—Key Findings Presentation

Garrett Damrath, Caltrans, gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the purpose and need, project alternatives review, and analysis methodology of the noise study. He discussed the temporary and permanent noise impacts of the project, as well as the noise abatement criteria. He said noise barriers are the only practical solution for I-710 and that final decision on construction of noise barriers will occur upon completion of final design.

It was moved by Mark Christoffels, seconded by Charlie Honeycutt, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Visual Impacts—Key Findings Presentation

Rob McCann, LSA, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the visual impact assessment technical study review. He said the key findings are that there will be short-term negative impacts due to construction; alternatives 6A/B/C will create the most substantial long-term impacts, particularly in Long Beach and South Gate, due to the elevated freight corridor; and that there will be a resulting need for mitigation. He said the proposed aesthetic enhancements would provide substantial visual benefit. David Tatsumi presented slides showing several examples of enhanced views at particular locations.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Victor Rollinger, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. I-710 Early Action Project Update

Ernesto Chaves, MTA, asked for discussion among the TAC members regarding early action projects. Mark Christoffels said arterial enhancements are needed even if the freeway is not improved. He said this means that early action projects should include those things that cities want in place when construction begins. He said we should move forward first on design for those projects that don't need environmental clearance.

Mohammad Mostahkami said the TAC needs the current cost estimates for intersection and TSM improvements at the next meeting.

Alex Hamilton said that Commerce had not yet submitted its comments regarding early action projects. Ernesto Chaves asked that they be submitted in writing to Jerry Wood.

It was moved by Mark Christoffels, seconded by Mohammad Mostahkami, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

H. Water Related Issues Review

Elizabeth Mahoney, URS, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the water technical studies. She discussed the impacts on stormwater runoff in the various construction alternatives. She said a key finding is that permanent best management practices should be incorporated into all of the build alternatives, including bio filtration strips and swales, infiltration basins, media filters, and gross solids removal devices. She discussed the impacts

on the Los Angeles River and the design mitigation, but said there is no significant risk to the floodplain.

Kerry Cartwright asked whether drainage work is included in the cost estimates. Jack Waldron, URS, responded that it is.

Kevin Wilson asked if all TMDL requirements would be met. Elizabeth Mahoney responded that they would.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Mark Christoffels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

I. Gateway Cities COG Engineer's Report

There was no report from the COG Engineer.

IX. Matters from the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee

Ernesto Chaves said that the sound wall feasibility study should kickoff in December or January. He said the central and north utility studies would go to the MTA Board in January.

X. Matters from the Chair

There were no matters from the Chair.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:46 p.m.