

Gateway Cities Connections



Working Together to Improve the Quality of Life for More Than 2 Million People in Southeast Los Angeles County

GATEWAY CITIES COG HOMELESS INITIATIVE FUNDED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In a letter to Los Angeles County Supervisors Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, Don Knabe and Gloria Molina, COG Board President Nelson, on behalf of the COG Board, advocated that the Gateway Cities receive a “fair share” of funding first to develop a Comprehensive Regional Plan on homelessness in the Gateway Cities. “By combining the collective resources of our 27 member cities, along with skills sets and proven solutions from the community and non-profit sectors, we can develop a regional plan that will yield real results,” said Mr. Nelson.

With leadership from Supervisors Knabe and Molina, that call has been answered. In a letter from Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen, and presented at the April 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors by Nick Ippolito, Social Services Deputy to Supervisor Knabe, Mr. Ippolito announced the County’s commitment to funding \$150,000 for the development of a homeless services strategy for the Gateway Cities sub-region. COG staff and County staff are working cooperatively to prepare a request for proposals to hire a consultant for this project.

Even more exciting, once there is a comprehensive strategy for homeless services in the Gateway Cities

sub-region, the County is prepared to offer \$1.2 million per year ongoing to implement the services. These funds may be used for capital or operating purposes or a combination of the two.

“The level of support and cooperation from the County is outstanding,” said Elba Guerrero, Chair of the COG’s Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness. “It is a great encouragement to begin planning with the knowledge that we will actually have the funds to begin implementing our ideas.”

All cities can look forward to being involved and consulted in the planning phase. The strategy will identify needs and services that currently meet those

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HOMELESS INITIATIVE (continued)

needs and service 'gaps.' It will then look at ways to fill the gaps so that communities in all parts of the COG region have ways to access the full range of services to prevent homelessness and help the homeless.



Photo Left to Right:

COG Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Member Frank Gurule; Social Services Deputy to Supervisor Knabe, Nick Ippolito; Chair of the COG's Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness, Elba Guerrero; and Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Member Connie Sziebl—Members of the Committee Receiving the Letter of Commitment from the County

I-5 CONSORTIUM CITIES JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY RELIEF FOR COMMUTERS IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY AS LONG-AWAITED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE I-5 FREEWAY ARE FULLY FUNDED

The I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority announced at a press conference and ground breaking ceremony on Thursday, April 5, 2007, that funding had been secured to widen the I-5 Freeway from the Los Angeles county line to the I-605 Freeway interchange.

Attendees at the event included Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, I-5 JPA Chairman Michael Mendez and Board Members Art Brown, Hal Malkin, Joe Serrano, David Gafin and Tina Baca del Rio, MTA Director Bonnie Lowenthal, COG President and City of Artesia Councilmember Larry R. Nelson and Santa Fe Springs Councilmember Betty Putnam.

In his speech Chairman Michael Mendez expressed how pleased they were to have the project receive the funds needed for this critical improvement project that focuses on one of the most challenged freeways in Southeast Los Angeles County. He said the work leading to this funding was years in the making.

The I-5 Consortium has been working with Caltrans, FHWA and MTA to develop an improvement strategy and program for this portion of the I-5 that will minimize disruption and inconvenience to the community.

The widening of the I-5 from the County line to the I-605 Freeway will cost approximately \$1.4 billion, and includes the reconstruction of the existing two-lane road interchange at Carmenita Road in Santa Fe Springs/Norwalk. Property acquisition and demolition by Caltrans has already started at this interchange. The entire project is now fully funded by multiple sources including State of California funds, voter approved state bond funds, MTA regional funding, Federal Highway funding and other transportation appropriations. Improvements to the I-5 from the I-605 to north of the I-710 are also being studied.

This project is a model of what can be accomplished through careful planning and persistence, inter-agency cooperation, voter awareness and community participation.

I-5 CONSORTIUM CITIES JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY RELIEF FOR COMMUTERS IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY AS LONG-AWAITED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE I-5 FREEWAY ARE FULLY FUNDED (continued)



Photo Lower Left: I-5 JPA Board Member Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA Board Member Art Brown, I-5 JPA Chairman Michael Mendez, I-5 JPA Board Member Joe Serrano and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano

Lower Right: Assemblyman Tony Mendoza, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, COG Board President Larry R. Nelson and MTA Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal



I-5 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CROSS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING UPDATE

The two agencies have had several meetings since their initial meeting last year. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) have agreed on a joint project to examine the transportation is-

ssues and projects that cross the county line. This initial study is planned to begin under contract with OCTA in July 2007 and will take approximately 9 months to complete. The Study will evaluate and coordinate various transportation projects that include freeways (I-5, SR-

91, SR-57 and I-405), county and local bus services, commuter rail, arterial highways and heavy duty rail for trains that cross the county line. The two agencies are coordinating on this effort, including the two Caltrans districts for these transportation projects and issues.

IT'S PROGRESS AS USUAL ON THE I-710 MTA POISED TO AWARD ENVIRONMENTAL PHASE CONTRACTS SIGNAL HILL JOINS PROJECT COMMITTEE STEPS TAKEN TOWARD AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

The MTA Board is poised to award contracts for the environmental phase of the I-710 Improvement Project, pursuant to the Major Corridor Study's (MCS) Locally Preferred Strategy (LPS). This long awaited milestone will bring on board both an environmental and engineering consulting team and a community participation and outreach consulting team.

"Kick-off of the environmental phase is another huge step forward for this model transportation improvement project," said Larry R. Nelson, President of the Gateway Cities COG Board of Directors.

By the time of the actual kick-off, the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee will have a new member, the City of Signal Hill. Although the I-710 Freeway does not run through the City of Signal Hill, the entire city is within the study area. Signal Hill residents and businesses rely on the freeway and safety of the I-710/I-405 interchange. The I-710 Corridor Cities welcome a new partner in their quest to build a better future.

Meanwhile, funding provided by the MTA with the leadership of MTA Board Member Bonnie

Lowenthal, has enabled the COG to take the first steps toward an I-710 Corridor Clean Air Action Plan. While the I-710 environmental documents will look specifically at the freeway itself, the Oversight Policy Committee representing the corridor communities charged the COG with advising how to create an Air Quality Action Plan for the I-710 Corridor, taking into account all sources of pollution. With the MTA grant, the COG engaged the environmental consulting firm of Gladstein, Neandross & Associates. They worked with COG staff over the past six months and in June unveiled a Preliminary Report to

the COG Board of Directors on Development of the Air Quality Action Plan for the I-710 Corridor.

The report summarizes the history of the I-710 improvement program, the air quality improvement activity that has taken place since the conclusion of the Major Corridor Study, input from stakeholders and recommended next steps. The COG Board heard a presentation on the document by Mr. Cliff Gladstein and will consider its content and next steps over the coming months. The document is available on the COG website at www.gatewaycog.org.

I-710 PAVEMENT RESTORATION AND MEDIAN BARRIER IMPROVEMENTS



INITIAL STUDIES UNDERWAY FOR THE SR-91/I-605/I-405 FREEWAY CORRIDORS IN THE GATEWAY CITIES

The cities that border the SR-91, I-605 and I-405 Freeways have begun initial studies to examine these freeways. This effort includes updating the traffic forecast model that was completed a few years ago, and an analysis of existing freeway right-of-way to determine expansion limits or potential within existing State freeway rights-of-way. The Corridor Cities Committee of elected officials Chaired by Norwalk Councilmember Gordon Stefenhagen, have ap-

proved a draft scope of work to proceed with a Major Corridor Study for these three freeways and have requested that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments request funding from other agencies to proceed with that effort.

The Corridor Cities will determine a framework for the all important component of community input. The program will be developed in concert with each individual city.

SR-91/I-605/I-405

Corridor Cities

Artesia ~ Bellflower

Cerritos ~ Compton

Downey ~ Hawaiian Gardens

Lakewood ~ Long Beach

Norwalk ~ Paramount

Pico Rivera ~ Santa Fe Springs

Whittier ~ County of Los Angeles

KUDOS FOR COMPTON AND LONG BEACH AT SCAG HOUSING SUMMIT

SCAG launched a new awards program at its May 24, 2007, Housing Summit and two Gateway Cities turned up winners. The Awards Program was created to recognize plans and projects that coordinate land use and transportation actions, demonstrate excellence in planning and design, and most importantly, work toward improving the mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability of our region.

The City of Compton received an Achievement Award in the

Prosperity category for the Compton Visioning Project. COG Board Member and Compton City Councilmember Lillie Dobson was on hand to accept the handsome award. According to the award citation, "The Compton Project implements the Compass Prosperity Principle by proving higher density housing close to job center and transit-oriented development around the potential location of a future Gold Line Station." The City of Long Beach received the Excellence Award also in the Prosperity category for the Olive Court development cur-

rently under construction on Long Beach Boulevard adjacent to the Metro Blue Line. Olive Court is a 58-unit condominium project with floor plans ranging from one to four bedrooms. According to the award citation, "Olive Court is an example of the Compass Prosperity Principle by providing a variety of housing types to meet the housing needs of all income levels." The award was accepted by Long Beach Housing Bureau Manager Ellie Tolentino and a representative of the non-profit housing developer Livable Places.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This past year has certainly been productive and enlightening. Our major emphasis was on outreach and communication.

We have indeed seen the COG move in this direction during the year. We developed a quarterly newsletter with a new and improved look, highlighting current project updates and events. We also developed and launched a new and improved website, which includes links to our member cities, our many member agencies and partners.

We were also successful in our outreach to our Orange County neighbors along with our partners at MTA.

We value the ongoing partnership with the Port of Long Beach and the Port of

Los Angeles and their joint commitment to clean air.

In our outreach to our County of Los Angeles Partners, we now have the planning underway for a "comprehensive strategy for homeless services" and an offer to receive ongoing dollars to implement these services in the Gateway Cities COG sub-region.

This year we have developed new partners and continue to work collaborating with our large circle of existing partners. My hope is that the COG will continue to strengthen our outreach and communication program with an emphasis on collaboration and partnership.

Larry R. Nelson, President
Board of Directors

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William Davis, City of Vernon
Don Knabe, LA County Board of Supervisors
Kerry Cartwright, Port of Long Beach,
Ex-Officio Member

2007 CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

July 2007

12 I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee 6:30 PM

August 2007

1 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 PM

1 Transportation Committee 4:30 PM



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