

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
I-710 OVERSIGHT POLICY COMMITTEE**

**A Meeting Held at Carson Community Center
3 Civic Plaza, Adult Activity Room
Carson, CA**

September 30, 2004

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Frank Colonna called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. Roll Call

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair Frank Colonna, Long Beach; Co-Chair Samuel Peña, Maywood; Daniel Crespo, Bell Gardens; Hugo Argumedo, Commerce; Jim Dear, Carson; Keith McCarthy, Downey; Ric Loya, Huntington Park; Fernando Pedroza, Lynwood; William Davis, Vernon; Gloria Molina, County of Los Angeles; Tad Teferi, Caltrans; Ray Maekawa, MTA.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: George Cole, Bell; Frank Gurule, Cudahy; Isadore Hall 2I, Compton; Gene Daniels, Paramount; Hector De La Torre, South Gate; John R. Calhoun, Port of Long Beach; Thomas Warren, Port of Los Angeles; Hasan Ikhata, SCAG.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Co-Chairman Colonna led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

V. Public Comments

Giovanni Vitela spoke regarding his problem of asthma, which he felt is aggravated by the diesel exhaust from I-710. Silvia Pena said that she has two children with asthma diagnosed this year. She said she felt that port and freeway expansion will contribute to the problem. Martha Arguello, Physicians for Social Responsibility, encouraged adoption of the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee report. Kristen Guzman commended the Oversight Policy Committee on the involvement of the Tier 2 CAC. Ericka Gutierrez said that the recent children's health study showed the impact of I-710 on health. She supported the

recommendations of the Tier 2 Committee.

Maria Madrid spoke in favor of the Tier 2 CAC recommendations. Marivel Nava said that she has a nine year-old daughter with symptoms of asthma. She said the level of pollution seems to be getting higher than it should be and that it affects our children. Andrea Hricko, USC Keck School of Medicine, applauded the OPC on its community outreach and for taking health into consideration. She said that the latest study regarding a link to cancer is available in local libraries. She submitted a policy brief from the USC Keck Center.

Oscar Menjivar spoke in support of the Tier 2 CAC recommendations. Alan Vega said that more freeways will not help the community of Long Beach. Veronica Vega said that children in Long Beach are affected by asthma. Robert Cabeza expressed grave concern with toxic air in Long Beach. He said that pollution from the Port does not benefit the community. Herendira Razcon, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said that it is very difficult to observe the people she has to take care of. Marisela Knott said that she is a Commerce resident and doesn't feel that an improvement in the commute on the freeway will be a benefit if it damages the health of the community. She said she supported the reports from the Technical Advisory Committee and the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee.

Justina Valencia said that she lives in Long Beach and has several relatives who suffer from asthma. She said she supports the Tier 2 CAC recommendations. Robert Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment, said he is a resident of Bell and feels that we have come a long way since the beginning of this study. He said it is important to look at the recent studies that show detrimental health conditions related to the freeways. Hector Alvarado, Padres Unidos de Maywood, said that the Maywood community does not know that there will not be an entrance to the I-710 freeway from Maywood. He said they also have health problems related to I-710.

Jesse N. Marquez, Coalition for a Safe Environment, said that there needs to be an equitable distribution of cargo trade in the United States. He said that the West Alameda Corridor was originally proposed with truck lanes and electric trains. Nidia Bautista, Coalition for Clean Air, said that the ports are the largest source of pollution in the region. She recommended a policy that sets air quality as the highest priority. Luis Ceballos, Padres Unidos de Maywood, said that there are many health problems in his neighborhood. He said that the communities around the freeway lack the financial ability to live elsewhere.

Mary R. Guerrero said that she is a Commerce resident and that there are tremendous traffic problems there. She said freeway expansion would

only bring in more trucks. Nancy Ramos, Commerce City Councilmember, commended the OPC and committee members who stuck with this process of public involvement. She said that the City of Commerce has great facilities, but asked what good would they be if the children suffered from health problems that kept them from enjoying them. She asked the OPC to please take the health issues seriously. She said the health condition in the Tier 2 report should be given the top priority.

Maura Dwyer, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said that air pollution causes and exacerbates asthma. Noel Park, San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, said that he wanted to underscore his anger that the representatives on the OPC from the two ports were not in attendance. He said that he has been honored to serve on the Tier 2 CAC. Art Flores said that he is a Commerce resident and said that it is not fair that the residents of the I-710 corridor have to bear the brunt of the environmental impacts of cargo traveling to the east coast. He said there should be a more rational approach to goods movement.

VI. Consent Calendar

A. Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2004.

It was moved by Member Dear, seconded by Member Crespo, to approve the minutes of the OPC meeting of April 8, 2004. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Review of Community Participation Process

Richard Powers, Executive Director of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, presented the background to the creation of the two tiers of community advisory committees. He read a statement from Tier 2 CAC Member Glenna Amos commending the process.

Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer, Community Relations, LACMTA, said that the community participation process was grounded in the concept of partnership. She said that the Tier 1 and Tier 2 community advisory committees have been very representative of the communities.

B. Report of Recommendations from the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee by Members of the Committee

Harold Tseklenis, Member, Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee, introduced the presentation of the Committee's report. He said that selected members of the Committee would summarize the different chapters. Ed Avol presented the Health and Safety Chapter. Bobbi Kimble presented the Jobs and Economic Development Chapter and the Safety Chapter. Bob Eula

presented the Noise Chapter and the Congestion and Mobility Chapter. Belinda Faustinos presented the Community Enhancements Chapter. Angelo Logan presented the Environmental Justice Chapter and the Organization and Process Chapter. Alan Hose presented the Design Concepts Chapter. Malcolm Carson presented the Conditions Chapter.

C. Report of Recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee

I-710 Technical Advisory Committee Chairman William Pagett presented the recommendations of the I-710 TAC. He said that the TAC recommended the hybrid design concept consisting of 4 truck lanes, 10 mixed flow lanes, and specified interchange improvements between Ocean Blvd. and the inter-modal rail yards in Vernon and Commerce. He said that the TAC acknowledges that the portion of the I-710 corridor from Atlantic/Bandini to SR 60 is still under study. He said that the hybrid design also incorporated the elements from Alternatives A (No Build) and B (TSM/TDM), as well as arterial improvements in the corridor.

Member Teferi thanked the two committees for their work in developing their recommendations.

Member Crespo thanked the committees and the public for their insight and participation. He said that he and his wife have asthma and that health determinations will be a major factor in his vote.

Member Pedroza said that the health of the community is his priority, as well as the current state of the corridor. He expressed concern about graffiti and the lack of landscaping and irrigation on the freeway. He said that he hopes immediate action would be taken to correct these problems and that they not wait for the mainline improvements.

Member McCarthy said that the issue of vibration should be added to the chapter on noise. He said that, in addition, the use of swales for drainage should be encouraged.

Member Dear thanked the committees for their reports and offered the facilities of the City of Carson for future meetings.

It was moved by Member McCarthy, seconded by Member Argumedo, to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting of the Oversight Policy Committee was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.