

GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Environmental Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Meeting

Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Paramount, California

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL – BY SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bill DeWitt – City of South Gate; Steve Lefever – Planning Directors Committee Representative (City of South Gate); Ruben Arceo – I-5 JPA Representative (City of La Mirada); Daniel Ojeda – AQAP Technical Roundtable Representative (City of Lynwood); Wendell Johnson – I-710 TAC, 91-605-405 TAC Representative (City of Compton); Angelo Logan – AQAP Advisory Roundtable Representative (East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice); Luis Cabrales – AQAP Advisory Roundtable Representative (Coalition for Clean Air); Elizabeth Warren – Future Ports; Craig Wong – representing Ron Arias, City of Long Beach Health and Human Services Department.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Karly Katona – representing Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; Angie Castro – representing Supervisor Gloria Molina; Judy Mitchell – South Coast Air Quality Management District Board; Adrian Martinez – Natural Resources Defense Council; Jorge Rifa – City Managers Committee Liaison (City of Commerce); Steve Forster – Public Works Committee Representative (City of La Mirada); Michele Grubbs – Pacific Marine Shipping Association.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Joseph – GCCOG Staff; Jerry Wood – GCCOG Staff; Adrian Alvarez – Metro; Danielle Valentino – Metro; Scott Broten – ICF; Jonathan Heller – Human Impact Partner; Susan DeSantis – Arellano Associates; Maria Yanez-Forgash – Arellano Associates; Katie Burnside – Arellano Associates; Kristen Torres – Arellano Associates; John Miller – Coalition for Clean Air; Mary DeWitt – resident of City of South Gate.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member Lefever led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no additions to the meeting minutes of the Environmental Committee for July 27, 2011. Chairman DeWitt made a motion to receive and file the report. Member Johnson seconded the motion to no objection.

VII. MATTERS FROM STAFF

There were no matters from staff.

VIII. REPORTS

A. AQAP Project Update – Oral Report by ICF

Scott Broten presented a Project Update Report on the AQAP. He reviewed the different technical tasks related to this effort, some of which are related to the GCCOG comprehensively through the AQAP, while others are specific to the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS.

Mr. Broten introduced Mr. Heller to report on the GCCOG-wide Community Medical Needs Assessment (CMNA) that studies healthcare resources in the GCCOG region. The data analysis for the Community Medical Needs Assessment is complete, and the report is currently under administrative review. Upon completion, the findings will be presented to the Roundtables. Mr. Heller reviewed the protocol development process outlining the health conditions and treatments that characterize the process and mentioned some of the agencies that collect data. He reported that it is not possible to get city-by-city data because California and its counties only collect data by health districts and service planning areas. He noted that there are six health districts that overlap with Gateway Cities and that the CMNA assessment focuses on Planning Areas 6 and 7. He indicated that there are 60 to 70 examples of metrics used in the data collection, and then presented 25 metrics covering obesity, uninsured, depression, and diabetes, among others.

Next, Mr. Broten reviewed the I-710 Near Roadway Modeling Assessment, which is currently analyzing modeling outputs and comparing them with actual readings. He provided a timeline and background (objectives and methodology) on the Near Roadway Modeling Assessment. He presented four scatter plots of modeled versus monitored observations for gasoline fuel and diesel. He noted that the model is showing limited ability to predict monitored observations for gasoline fuel and is generally over-predicting diesel concentrations. He presented key findings of the data and scatter plots, and next steps.

A number of clarifying questions were asked:

Chairman DeWitt requested clarification on what other particulates the monitoring sites were looking at and the locations of those sites. Mr. Broten reported that only a couple of studies are available using this methodology.

Chairman DeWitt made a motion to receive and file report. Member Arceo seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. AQAP Participation Framework Committee Reports – Oral Report by Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis updated the Committee on the activities of the AQAP Technical Working Groups and Roundtables. She reviewed the framework, the roles, and responsibilities of each of the AQAP groups and how they interact with the COG organization. These groups include the I-710 Health Impact Assessment Technical Working Group, the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment Technical Working Group (AQ/HRA TWG), the AQAP Technical Roundtable and the Advisory Roundtable, and the Environmental Committee. For each group, Ms. DeSantis presented their composition, the topics presented at their July and August Meetings, the issues that were brought forward at each venue, and their recommendations to the subsequent group in the participation framework (i.e., the AQAP Roundtables and the Environmental Committee).

Ms. DeSantis noted that four letters were received following the July Advisory Roundtable Meeting. She reported that the Project Team has reviewed the letters and responded to all comments received. Copies of the comments and responses have been made available to all Technical Working Groups, Roundtables, and this Environmental Committee.

There were no comments or questions related to this report.

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file report. Member Logan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. AQAP 101 Transportation Committee Briefing – Oral Report by Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis reported that the Transportation Committee (TC) will receive an “AQAP 101” Briefing at its September 7th Meeting. Ms. DeSantis presented five topics that will be covered during briefing. Ms. DeSantis noted that the primary output from the AQAP Project is the creation of a “Toolkit” of air quality improvement measures that could be implemented at various levels (local, regional, state, federal). Ms. DeSantis indicated that the September 7th meeting is an open meeting and welcomed participation from the Environmental Committee.

Member Lefever made a motion to receive and file report. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment (AQ/HRA) Final Protocol and Final Compendium Update Report of Existing and Proposed Near-Term Air Quality Improvement Strategies – Report by ICF

Mr. Broten presented the staff report on the Final Protocol for the AQ/HRA for all of Gateway Cities. He noted that the AQ/HRA would be conducted in accordance with a protocol that

represents the recipe book of how to determine and evaluate the air quality impacts and outcomes. He reported that the AQ/HRA protocol was developed with assistance from the AQ/HRA TWG. The AQ/HRA TWG met three times over the past few months to discuss issues and recommend protocol revisions. Based on that input, the protocols were revised, reviewed, and further discussed with the AQ/HRA TWG, and a draft protocol was developed. Mr. Broten reported that the draft protocol was then presented to the AQAP Technical and Advisory Roundtables, which also provided input resulting in a final protocol being produced.

Then, Mr. Broten presented the staff report on the Compendium and indicated that the Compendium update has been completed.

Mr. Broten asked the Environmental Committee to receive and file the AQ/HRA Final Protocol and the Compendium Reports so that these reports may be moved through the Participation Framework and presented to the Transportation Committee.

Chairman DeWitt made a motion to receive and file report. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman DeWitt made a second motion to condition approval of the Final Protocol with an understanding that the northern geometrics design would be reviewed to incorporate the Washington Boulevard area. Member Logan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. I-710 HIA Determinants and Pathways – Report by Human Impact Partners (HIP)

Mr. Heller presented the staff report on the I-710 Health Impact Assessment Determinants and Pathways. He provided background on what led to the HIA Project, noting that the I-710 Project Committee directed that an HIA for the I-710 be prepared to be included in the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. He noted that as a task under the AQAP work plan, preparation of the I-710 HIA has begun. He reported that the HIA is in the process of completing the Scoping phase, which answers the following: what health impacts will be evaluated, what methods of analysis will be utilized, and what work plan will be established. Mr. Heller noted that an I-710 HIA Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised of public agency health and environmental staff met three times to provide guidance for the 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 Corridor Project.
3. Identify community health concerns/issues within Gateway Cities of which the solutions may be unrelated 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 Corridor Project EIR/EIS technical data in the HIA to the greatest extent possible to reduce redundancy.

Mr. Heller indicated that these goals were then presented to the Advisory and Technical Roundtables who did not make 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 that were then finalized for the following six health determinants: Air Quality, Noise, Mobility, Traffic Safety, Jobs and Economic Development, and Neighborhood Resources (parks, food, healthcare, etc.).

Subsequently, the pathways assessing the health outcomes for the six health determinants were developed. These pathways and the health determinants were reviewed and commented on by the HIA TWG and the Advisory and Technical Roundtables.

Mr. Heller noted that the pathways were finalized from these meetings in addition to the feedback received at the last Environmental Committee meeting. He then presented the pathways to the Environmental Committee at this meeting.

Following discussion on the pathways, Mr. Heller noted in conclusion that a full scope for the HIA that includes research questions, metrics to be used, data sources, and analytical methodologies was also drafted, reviewed by the TWG and the Roundtables, revised, and finalized.

There was discussion on the Jobs and Economic Development pathway. Questions focused on the types of jobs that would be created in the logistics industry and health impacts of new warehouse development if Gateway Cities is a net donor region for jobs. Mr. Heller indicated that the HIA did not have the resources to conduct a thorough economic analysis. Dr. Miller stated that the community would like to see a more thorough analysis that could be taken into consideration when overriding considerations.

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file report. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman DeWitt noted that the staff had recommended that the Environmental Committee concur with the selected health determinants for the I-710 HIA and the associated final pathways for assessment in the I-710 HIA, direct the I-710 HIA to proceed, and forward this action to the Transportation Committee for its information.

There was further discussion on fiscal impacts and the medical cost for each premature death. Mr. Wood indicated that the Project Team would conduct research on the matter and report back at the next meeting.

John Miller made a motion to vacate the previous motion to receive and file the report, and entered a new motion to accept staff's recommendation that the Environmental Committee concur with the selected health determinants for the I-710 HIA and the associated final pathways for assessment in the I-710 HIA, direct the I-710 HIA to proceed, and forward this action to the Transportation Committee for its information. Member Arceo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman DeWitt made a second motion to further study the fiscal impacts related to the health outcomes. Member Logan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Early Action Items – Oral Report by Jerry Wood

Mr. Wood reviewed the Early Action Items. He noted that development of the AQAP for the I-710 Corridor (May 2007) provided the basis for the scope of AQAP scope of work. He noted that key representatives from the environmental community indicated strong desire for measures that would result in near-term air quality improvement, and that many of the measures are based on concepts that were originally proposed in the Tier 2 report. He indicated that some measures result in direct emission reductions while others provide foundations for successful development and implementation of the AQAP, including those that have already been implemented, as well as the proposed Early Action Items. There were no comments or questions.

Chairman DeWitt made a motion to receive and file report. Member Arceo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. COG Engineer's Report by Jerry Wood – Oral Report

Mr. Wood indicated that there was nothing more to report at this time.

H. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Status Report by Jerry Wood – Oral Report

Mr. Wood presented a status report on the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. The Administration Draft EIR/EIS will be reviewed internally in early December or January 2012. It will be made available for public review in March or April 2012. Mr. Wood also reported that the Air Quality Assessment would be available in early December. There were no questions or comments.

IX. MATTERS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Logan reported that he attended a meeting with California Air Resource Board (CARB) representatives where he learned that CARB has 2000 anti-idling signs, and is looking to identify appropriate locations to post the signs.

Chairman DeWitt made an announcement for all committee members to avoid the I-710 Freeway over the weekend due to construction activity.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.