

# **GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

## **Environmental Committee**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

*Wednesday, July 27, 2011  
6:00-8:30 p.m. Meeting*

**Gateway Cities Council of Governments**  
**16401 Paramount Boulevard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Paramount, California**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

#### **II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by self-introduction.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill DeWitt - City of South Gate, Karly Katona – representing Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Steve Lefever – City of South Gate, Ruben Arceo – City of La Mirada, LaDonna DiCamillo – BNSF Railway, Daniel Ojeda – City of Lynwood, Wendell Johnson – City of Compton, Angelo Logan- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Ron Arias – City of Long Beach, Angie Castro – representing Supervisor Gloria Molina, Luis Cabrales – Coalition for Clean Air, Judy Mitchell – South Coast Air Quality Management District Board, Adrian Martinez – Natural Resources Defense Council

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jorge Rifa - City of Commerce, Steve Forster – City of La Mirada, Mike Walter – Long Beach Harbor Commission, Michele Grubbs – Pacific Marine Shipping Association, Elizabeth Warren – Future Ports

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Powers – COG Staff, Susan DeSantis – Arellano Associates, Susan Ahn – Long Beach Unified School District, Maria Davila – City of South Gate, Jerry Wood – COG Staff, Karen Heit – COG Staff, Adrian Alvarez – Metro, Scott Broten – ICF, Trent Johnson – Human Impact Partners, Jonathan Heller – Human Impact Partner, Danielle Valentino - Metro, Yesenia Arias – Arellano Associates

#### **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. Matters from Staff**

There were no matters from staff.

**VII. Reports**

**A. AQAP Status and Schedule Update**

Scott Broten presented a Status and Schedule Update report on the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). He reviewed the different committees and technical tasks related to this effort, some of which are related to the COG comprehensively through the AQAP, while others are specific to the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. Mr. Broten described the relationships between the I-710 EIR/EIS, its technical reports and the AQAP and its technical reports. He reviewed the boundaries for the I-710-specific studies and for the AQAP studies. Mr. Broten then presented a six-month outlook for the documents in progress and moved into a longer-term calendar that outlined all tasks being completed by early 2013. The Community Medical Needs Assessment, I-710 Health Impact Assessment, I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Concept report, and I-710 Near Roadway Modeling report (with Ultrafines) are four tasks related to the I-710 Corridor Project which are currently underway in the AQAP. These tasks are scheduled for completion by the end of November 2011, so that Caltrans has time to consider them for inclusion in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

**B. AQAP Participation Framework Committee Reports**

Ms. DeSantis delivered a Participation Framework Committee report to update the Committee on the activities of the AQAP Technical Working Groups and Roundtables. She reviewed the participation goals of the AQAP, the participation 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 (AQ/HRA) Technical Working Group, the Technical Roundtable and the Advisory Roundtable. For each group, Ms. DeSantis presented their composition, the topics they addressed, the issues that arose, and their recommendations to the subsequent group in the participation framework (i.e. the AQAP Roundtables and the Environmental Committee).

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file the report. Member Arceo seconded the motion to no objection.

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file Mr. Broten's previously delivered Status and Schedule Update report. Member Lefever seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **C. AQAP Deliverables Overview and Schedule**

Mr. Broten presented a report on the Deliverables Overview and Schedule. This report reviewed the status of the Community Medical Needs Assessment, the I-710 Near Roadway Modeling Assessment, the I-710 Ultrafines report, the AQ/HRA Protocol, the Compendium Update, the Quantitative Air Quality Analysis, the I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Concept report, the I-710 Health Impact Assessment, the Health Risk Assessment and the Early Action Support. For each of the deliverables, Mr. Broten highlighted the purpose of the task, when its findings will be discussed and the stage of progress toward completion.

Mr. Broten discussed the GCCOG-wide Community Medical Needs Assessment, which studies health care resources in the GCCOG region. The data analysis for the Community Medical Needs Assessment is complete, and the report is being prepared. Upon completion, the findings will be presented to the Roundtables.

Next, he reviewed the I-710 Near Roadway Modeling Assessment, which is currently analyzing modeling outputs and comparing them with actual readings. The findings will be discussed with the Roundtables next month.

Following, Mr. Broten presented the Ultrafines, which is an assessment on the state of the science on Ultrafines. This report is being prepared for discussion at the August Roundtables. Mr. Broten also discussed the Protocol, and explained that it will be used for both the Air Quality and Health Risk Assessment tasks. The final Protocol is underway and its findings will also be discussed at the August Roundtables.

Mr. Broten explained the status of the Compendium update (previously identified Existing and Proposed Near-Term Air Quality Improvement Strategies). The original Compendium was completed in 2006 and the update is meant to review and update the 2006 version. It is proceeding for presentation to the Environmental Committee tonight.

Mr. Broten explained that the Quantitative Air Quality analysis will be completed next year.

Mr. Broten reported that the I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Concept report has three components in progress: preparation of emission modeling, development of emission inventory, and report preparation. The findings are to be discussed in August. Mr. Broten reviewed the I-710 Health Impact Assessment, which is at the data assessment and report preparation phase. Mr. Broten also reported that both the Health Risk Assessment

and the Early Action Support are in the early stages; the HRA will be completed next year and the Early Action Projects this year.

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file Mr. Broten's report. Member Arceo seconded the motion. There was no objection.

**D. Final Compendium of Existing and Proposed Near-Term Air Quality Improvement Strategies**

Mr. Broten delivered the presentation on the Final Compendium of Existing and Proposed Near-Term Air Quality Improvement Strategies. The Compendium is meant to provide a baseline of existing or current documents, plans, measures, ideas, etc. to improve air quality. Mr. Broten reviewed the methodology for updating the Compendium from the 2006 version, which included 154 measures. The updated Compendium now identifies whether each of those measures is fully, partially, or not implemented. It also reports on air quality measures adopted since 2006. Mr. Broten reported that nearly 2/3 of the measures have been addressed. Mr. Broten also gave examples of partially and not implemented measures.

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file the Compendium presentation. Member Ojeda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Concept Report**

The Committee next heard a report by Mr. Wood on the I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Concept. In this presentation, Mr. Wood reviewed the I-710 EIR/EIS corridor study area and discussed the assumptions that he used to prepare the Construction Staging and Phasing Concept. This Concept illustrates one of many ways that the I-710 construction staging for 10 general purpose lanes and a freight corridor could take place; ultimately, funding will dictate the actual Construction Staging and Phasing Plans. This Concept proposes how to build each of the seven segments. It would significantly improve safety by constructing the Freight Corridor first to separate traffic, in response to the community's requests. The Concept assumes financing by 2013-2014, right of way acquisition by 2015-2017, and operation in 2022-2024. This Concept also considers the potential for a public-private partnership and zero emissions technology for the freight corridor. The Concept avoids scheduling improvements next to each other to lessen impacts. It also assumes the construction of the entire freight corridor at the same time. The emissions calculations from this Concept are scheduled to be reported next month.

Chairman DeWitt moved to receive and file Mr. Wood's presentation. Member Ojeda seconded the motion. There were no objections.

**F. I-710 HIA Presentation**

Mr. Heller presented the I-710 Health Impact Assessment, which will evaluate the I-710 project alternatives and assess if there are any relationships with health

outcomes. It defines health comprehensively to encompass the individual factors, individual behaviors, public infrastructure, living conditions and socioeconomic factors. The HIA will also identify appropriate actions to manage health effects and improve health. Mr. Heller reviewed the steps for creating a HIA, which include screening, scope, assessment, recommendations, reporting, and monitoring. Mr. Heller reminded the Committee that they can expect the draft in six to seven weeks which will be reviewed through the AQAP Roundtables and this Committee before being submitted in the I-710 EIR/EIS process. Mr. Heller further detailed the Scoping process, which was discussed by the HIA Technical Working Group and the AQAP Roundtables. Mr. Heller also reviewed the five HIA Goals which were approved at July 11 TWG meeting. Mr. Heller presented the health determinants selected by the TWG and reviewed with the Roundtables: air quality, noise, mobility, traffic safety, jobs/economic development, and neighborhood resources. Mr. Heller also discussed the Overarching Parameters, which include the six alternatives being considered in the I-710 EIR/EIS, time boundaries, geographic boundaries and vulnerable populations. Next, Mr. Heller reviewed the six pathways that address each health determinant. Lastly, Mr. Heller reviewed the schedule for completion of the document in September.

Chairman DeWitt motioned to receive and file report. Judy Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. Gateway Cities COG Engineer's Report**

Mr. Wood presented the final report, the COG Engineer's Report. He thanked all participants for their involvement on behalf of Gateway Cities. Mr. Wood looks forward to the Committee reviewing the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment because it is its first of its kind. He reminded the group of the upcoming I-710 Project Committee (PC) meetings on September 29 and November 10. The November 10 meeting is a special meeting to address the AQAP where the recommendations of the AQAP Roundtables and the Environmental on the AQAP products will be presented. All projects are on schedule.

Chairman DeWitt also recognized that today two comment letters were received, one is a joint letter submitted by NRDC, CBE and EYCEJ letter submitted regarding the Health Impact Assessment's Scope of Work and the other a communication from the Port of Long Beach regarding the Compendium. Committee member will receive a copy of the comment letters.

Mr. Logan requested to return to the process discussion for Agenda item VII E "I-710 Construction Staging Concept." His understanding of this process is that the Environmental Committee is assembled to gather feedback, but felt that he was told that the Construction Staging Concept is already submitted for review and analysis, and thus the Committee has limited room to provide feedback since analysis is already being conducted. Mr. Logan recognized that the AQAP is operating under

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an ambitious timeline, but he wants to ensure that the Committee does more than just receive updates from Project Team. Mr. Broten and Mr. Wood explained that the staging concept is speculative and it was best to wait and see what the study shows and see how sensitive the staging concept is to the results.

Mr. Cabrales wished to address the process for reviewing and incorporating the comments submitted by CBE, NRDC and EYCEJ. Mr. Cabrales felt that the comments were valid and point out what the three organizations perceive to be their assessment of the presentations. He assumes that these types of comments could be considered, analyzed, and then acted upon.

Chairman DeWitt responded that it is incumbent upon staff and consultants to analyze the comments and directed them to provide responses. The August Committee meeting will address comment integration.

Chairman DeWitt moved to incorporate comment letters into record. The comment letters will be addressed at the August meetings.

#### **VIII. Matters from the Environmental Committee**

There were no Matters from the Environmental Committee

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.