I. Call to Order

Co-Chairman Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by self-introductions:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate, Co-Chair; Ana Maria Quintana, City of Bell; Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens; Lillie Dobson, City of Compton; Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy; Rosa E. Perez, City of Huntington Park; James Johnson, City of Long Beach; Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill; Patrick V. DeChellis, County of Los Angeles; Thomas Fields, Port of Long Beach; Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA; Garrett Damrath, Caltrans; Diane DuBois, MTA; Alison Linder, SCAG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Dear, City of Carson; Denise Robles, City of Commerce; Luis Marquez, City of Downey; Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood; William Davis, City of Vernon; Douglas Krause, Port of Los Angeles; Barbara Messina, SGVCOG; Susan Seamans, SBCCOG (ex officio); Mark Sedlacek, LADWP (ex officio); Garry Garrigue, Southern California Edison (ex officio).

ALSO PRESENT: South Gate Mayor Bill DeWitt; Marisol Barajas, Office of Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal; Frank Quon, Executive Officer, Highway Programs, MTA; Ernesto Chaves, Transportation Planning Manager, MTA; Lucy Olmos, Transportation Planner, MTA; Danielle Valentino, MTA; Ivy Tsai, Deputy General Counsel, GCCOG; Richard Powers, Executive Director, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, Deputy Executive Director, GCCOG; Jerry Wood, Engineer, GCCOG; Dave Levinsohn, Project Manager, URS; Shannon Willits, URS; Rob McCann, President, LSA; Esmeralda Garcia, Project Manager, MIG; J. D. Douglas, InfraConsult.
III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Gurule 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. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member DuBois, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2012. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports

A. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Engineering Update

Shannon Willits, URS, gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the status of the engineering work on the project. He said the engineering assumptions are being re-evaluated with regard to new design considerations since spring 2011, including utility study findings, new standards, updates in traffic assumptions, and financial feasibility. He said other considerations include changes in existing conditions, such as the Gerald Desmond Bridge design changes and facility expansions by Occidental Petroleum and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. He summarized the ongoing activities as assessing potential design changes and refinements, and developing and incorporating changes to define alternatives for environmental evaluation.

Member Johnson asked if more information could be given regarding how much money can be expected for the project. Frank Quon, MTA, responded that they know about Measure R funding, but are looking at possible public/private partnerships. Member
Johnson said that, at the same time, we should be talking about building to what is available.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Co-Chairman Hurtado declared a recess at 6:47 p.m.

Co-Chairman Hurtado called the meeting back to order at 7:13 p.m.

**B. I-710 Corridor Project DEIR/EIS Environmental Update**

Rob McCann, LSA, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Project Committee on the status of the environmental work. He said almost 3,000 comments had been received by the close of the 90-day public comment period on September 28, 2012. He said the key issues raised included: project design, phasing, and the preferred alternative; the study methodologies and assumptions; CEQA/NEPA compliance; and specific concerns about air, noise, and property impacts.

Mr. McCann said the options for completing the CEQA/NEPA process were to proceed with a final EIR/EIS that addresses the public comments and identifies a preferred alternative or to revise the draft EIR/EIS to address design refinements, updated assumptions, and a refined alternative. The latter option would result in recirculation of a revised draft for public review, extending the project schedule by 12-18 months. Mr. McCann reviewed the next steps that would be entailed should the option be chosen to recirculate the draft EIR/EIS.

It was moved by Member Dobson, seconded by Member Forester, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

**C. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Community Participation Update**

Esmeralda Garcia, MIG, gave a PowerPoint presentation reporting on the community participation efforts. She said the project team had been continuing to review the comments received during the draft EIR/EIS comment period. She said the Technical Advisory Committee and Corridor Advisory Committee had met in the month of January to receive project updates. Meetings with these
committees and the local advisory committees were scheduled to take place in February.

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Johnson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. I-710/I-5 Corridor Projects Environmental Update

Gateway Cities COG Engineer Jerry Wood reported that the project team has been working with the I-5 Joint Powers Authority about moving forward with a non-standard solution to the interchange.

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Johnson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. I-710 DEIR/EIS Report on Recommendations for Next Steps

Frank Quon, Executive Officer, Highway Programs, MTA, introduced Dave Levinsohn, Project Manager for URS, who gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the next steps in the environmental process. Mr. Levinsohn reviewed some of the changed conditions, including completion of the SCAG RTP, the I-710 utility studies, and the Gerald Desmond Bridge design changes. He reviewed the options as proceeding with a final EIR/EIS that addresses the public comments or revising the draft EIR/EIS to address the design refinements and updated assumptions and re-circulating the document for public review. He reviewed the justifications for draft EIR re-circulation under CEQA guidelines.

Mr. Levinsohn reviewed the alternatives to be studied under a re-circulated EIR/EIS: revised 2035 No Build; Alternative 6C Modified (zero emission freight corridor with tolls and automated guidance with up to 10 general purpose lanes); Alternative 6D (zero emission freight corridor with tolls and automated guidance with a maximum of 8 general purpose lanes). Mr. Levinsohn explained that most of the elements of Community Alternative 7, which had been recommended for inclusion by the Corridor Advisory Committee, are included in Alternative 6D.

Mr. Levinsohn said the next steps, assuming re-circulation of the draft EIR/EIS, would be to develop a revised schedule, update the
technical studies, prepare the re-circulated draft and submit it for public comments, respond to the comments, identify a preferred alternative, and prepare a final EIR/EIS. He said the project team’s recommendation is to proceed with a re-circulated draft EIR/supplemental EIS.

Member Alatorre said an enforcement element is needed; but if there are no funds for enforcement, it will not happen.

Member Quintana asked, if mitigation elements would be considered later, what harm would there be to include Community Alternative 7 in the re-circulated EIR.

Member Infanzon said if most of Community Alternative 7 is included in Alternative 6D, then there would not be much change by including Alternative 7 in the re-circulated EIR.

Frank Quon, MTA, responded that some of the elements of Alternative 7 may not be feasible.

Member DeChellis said a vast majority of trucks using the freight corridor would not be getting off at the rail yards. He said the impacts on East Los Angeles would be lessened by extending the freight corridor to the SR-60 freeway. He said he could support Alternative 7 if it included the extension of the freight corridor to SR-60.

Member Forester said he liked Alternative 7, but cannot support it without knowing of the impacts on flood control.

Member Aguilar said the question on the floor is whether to study Alternative 7, not to adopt it.

Member Daniels said he had no objection to including Alternative 7.

Member Fields asked if adding Alternative 7 would affect the 12-18 month additional period for the re-circulated EIR/EIS. Frank Quon, MTA, responded that it will take more analysis and more funding may be needed because some elements may not be eligible under the current funding.

Member DeChellis said he would like to add to both Alternative 6D and Alternative 7 the extension of the freight corridor to SR-60.
Jerry Wood, Gateway Cities COG, said that extension of the freight corridor to SR-60 will be studied.

Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said that 125 people were present for this item and that he would like to present a PowerPoint on Community Alternative 7.

It was the consensus of the Project Committee to receive the presentation on Alternative 7.

Mr. Logan summarized the major elements of Alternative 7 as including no widening of I-710; a comprehensive public transit element; a committed zero emission freight corridor; a public/private partnership for an employer operated freight system; improvements to the Los Angeles River, a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian element, and community benefits from expanded open space and other community enhancements. He asked that the recommendation from the Corridor Advisory Committee that Alternative 7 be included in the re-circulated EIR/EIS be approved.

Iris Verduzco, Communities for a Better Environment, said Alternative 7 is needed in our communities.

Adrian Martinez, National Resources Defense Council, referred the Project Committee to a letter from environmental health groups supporting Alternative 7.

Patricia Shaw, Coalition for Clean Air, spoke in support of the Community Advisory Committee’s recommendation regarding Alternative 7.

Maria Gallegos, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, asked the Project Committee to please consider whether it is necessary to have a general expansion of I-710.

David Mata, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said he supported Alternative 7. He said he doesn’t understand how making the freeway bigger will improve air quality.

Member Aguilar said that the City of Commerce is heavily polluted and that what they want in Commerce is to support Alternative 7. He referred the Project Committee to a resolution of the Commerce City Council supporting Alternative 7.
It was moved by Member Aguilar, seconded by Member Infanzon, to proceed to develop a Re-circulated Draft EIR/Supplemental EIS and to include Alternative 7.

Member Daniels asked how soon the revised EIR would be ready to be circulated. Dave Levinsohn, URS, responded that it would take approximately a year and a half.

Member Forester said he likes Alternative 7, but he doesn't see where they've talked to the Army Corps of Engineers. He said he is concerned about the impact on flood insurance. He said there is a need to look at the whole growth scenario for this area.

Member Johnson said a lot of Alternative 7 has been incorporated in to Alternative 6D.

Frank Quon, MTA, referred the Project Committee to a matrix that compares the alternatives. He said Alternative 6D incorporates much of Alternative 7. He said some elements of Alternative 7 can be considered mitigation, which comes later in the process.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved by a roll call vote:

    AYES: Members Quintana, Infanzon, Dobson, Gurule, Perez, Johnson, Alatorre, Daniels, Forester, DeChellis, Fields, Aguilar, DuBois, and Co-Chairman Hurtado;

    NOES: None;

    ABSTAIN: Members Damrath and Linder;

    ABSENT: Members Dear, Robles, Marquez, Aguirre, Davis, Krause, and Messina.

F. Status of I-710 Aesthetics Committee

Richard Powers, Executive Director, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, reported that Caltrans has made an amazing turnaround and now is agreeable to dramatic design elements preferred by the communities.
It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Forester, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. Status of Current Early Action Projects

Jerry Wood, Gateway Cities COG Engineer, reported that the most of the proposed sound walls being studied appear to be feasible.

Member Johnson said a mile long pilot project for a zero emissions freight corridor would make sense and that he would like to see a proposal regarding this. Frank Quon, MTA, said he would happy to come back to the Project Committee and report on this.

Member DuBois asked what the process is to add an early action project. Frank Quon responded that the process is to first go to the Technical Advisory Committee and then to the Project Committee. Jerry Wood said that the South Coast Air Quality Management District has taken the lead on a pilot project. He said he understood that Siemens is preparing a proposal to submit to the Air District.

H. Gateway Cities COG Engineer Report

Jerry Wood reported that the Strategic Transportation Plan project is now underway and will include a technology plan for mass transit, as well as a master bicycle plan.

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Alatorre, to receive and file reports G and H. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Matters from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee

There were no matters from the Project Committee.

X. Matters from the Chair

There were no matters from Co-Chairman Hurtado.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:33 p.m.