I. Call to Order

Co-Chairman Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:32 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; Jim Dear, City of Carson; Denise Robles, City of Commerce; Lillie Dobson, City of Compton; Josue Barrios, City of Cudahy; Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park; James Johnson, City of Long Beach; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill; Patrick De Chellis, County of Los Angeles; Thomas Fields, Port of Long Beach; Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA; Ron Kosinski, Caltrans; Karen Heit, MTA; Alison Linder, SCAG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:  Luis Marquez, City of Downey; Maria T. Santillan, City of Lynwood; William Davis, City of Vernon; Douglas Krause, Port of Los Angeles; Barbara Messina, SGVCOG; Garry Garrigue, Southern California Edison (ex officio); Susan Seamans, SBCCOG (ex officio); Mark Sedlacek, LADWP (ex officio).

ALSO PRESENT:  South Gate Mayor Bill DeWitt; Rolling Hills Estates Councilwoman Judy Mitchell; Vernon Director of Community Services Kevin Wilson; James Yang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; Garret Damrath, Caltrans; Frank Quon, Executive Officer, Highway Programs, MTA; Ernesto Chaves, Transportation Planner, MTA; Adrian Alvarez, Project Manager, MTA; Lucy Olmos, MTA; Ivy Tsai, Deputy General Counsel, GCCOG; Richard Powers, Executive Director, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, Deputy Executive Director, GCCOG; Jerry Wood, GCCOG Engineer; Dave Levinsohn, Deputy Project Manager, URS; Rob McCann, President, LSA; Esmeralda Garcia, Project Manager, MIG; Julia Lester, Environ; Karl Rodenbaugh, Senior Scientist, The Planning Center; Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice; Isella Ramirez, Co-Executive Director, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice; Jocelyn Vivar, Research and Policy Analyst, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.
III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Barrios 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 Barrios, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 31, 2012. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports

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

Dave Levinsohn, URS, gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the recent work done on the draft project report. He said the final draft had been submitted after it had received FHWA acceptance of the draft concept. He said current work involved analysis of the design option of extension of the zero emission corridor to SR-60. This extension would be consistent with the methodology in the draft EIR/EIS, which assumes an overhead catenary electric power distribution system allowing electric/hybrid trucks to connect to the catenary along the two outermost general purpose lanes.

Member Johnson said he would like to look at Alternative 5A with electrification of two lanes as a less expensive alternative.

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Guerrero, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.
B. I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Environmental Update

Rob McCann, LSA, gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the activities completed in the last month. He said EPA’s comments on the air quality analysis were addressed at the SCAG Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting. He said analysis of the zero emission corridor extension had been initiated and that a revised administrative draft of the EIR/EIS had been submitted to the funding partners.

Member Aguilar reported that the Commerce Local Advisory Committee had requested a review period of 180 days for the draft EIR/EIS. Member Kosinski responded that 60 days is the legally mandated review period and that he feels that is an adequate amount of time.

Member Infanzon said that cities don’t have the funding for experts to look at the technical studies. Member Heit responded that cities may use Measure R funds to pay for those services. Member Kosinski said if a city calls at day 50 asking for some additional time to complete its review, some additional time can be granted through an informal extension.

The Gateway Cities COG Deputy Legal Counsel said that this body can only advise Caltrans, who makes the final decision.

Jocelyn Vivar Ramariz, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, thanked staff for being accommodating. She said that, because of this robust participation process, Caltrans takes the advice of this Committee on the review period. She said she would appreciate a longer review period.

Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said he appreciates the dialogue with Caltrans. He said the democratic process wants a longer review period. He recommended that the Project Committee ask for more time for review.

It was moved by Member Quintana, seconded by Member Dear, to take up the question of the review period at the May 31 meeting when the document is ready.

It was moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Infanzon, as a substitute motion, to recommend a 90 day review period. The motion failed on a vote of 8 to 6 by a show of hands.

Member Dear asked for staff’s recommendation. Member Heit responded that staff feels that 60 days is adequate.
Member Quintana suggested that the Project Committee meet two weeks after the draft document is released.

Rob McCann said that the legally required number of days is 45, but Caltrans had made a commitment to allow a 60 day review period.

It was the consensus of the Project Committee to receive and file the report.

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

Esmeralda Garcia, MIG, presented a report on the March 22 meeting of the Community Advisory Committee. She said the Committee wants an analysis of the arterials to be included in the Health Risk Assessment.

Julia Lester, Environ, gave a Power Point presentation explaining that FHWA only requires analysis of the freeway; that FHWA says it is misleading to attempt to model on other roads. Despite this, Caltrans takes arterials into the analysis, far beyond what FHWA and Caltrans require.

Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said the process by which the Community Advisory Committee requested arterials analysis within the Health Risk Assessment should have come as a formal recommendation to the Project Committee. He said the Community Advisory Committee feels that it needs more information regarding truck traffic on the arterials regarding when trucks leave the freight corridor, specifically onto Washington Boulevard.

Julia Lester responded that the maps will include the area around Washington Boulevard. She said it is not a recommended exercise. She said it will not give a true answer, but could cause greater confusion.

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

D. Community Impact Assessment Review of Key Findings

Rob McCann, LSA, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Impact Assessment’s key findings. He summarized the purpose and need to improve air quality and traffic safety and to provide a modern design for I-710. He reviewed the various alternatives and the components of the Community Impact Assessment.

He reviewed the key findings. He said there were very few impacts due to the goal of avoidance of community impacts in the project design. He said
alternative 6A/B/C result in adverse impacts to community character and cohesion in the Ayers neighborhood of Commerce with design options 1 and 2, to a new senior housing facility which straddles Compton and the County unincorporated area, and some mobile homes located in Bell Gardens.

Mr. McCann said total relocations, both residential and nonresidential, range from 110 under Alternative 5A to 329 under Design Option 1 of Alternative 6A/B/C. He said the impacts on parks and recreation facilities vary by location, including an easement in Bandini Park, partial acquisition of the Rancho Rio Verde Riding Club, and full acquisition and relocation of the Compton Hunting and Fishing Club, Parque Dos Rios, and a multi-service center in Long Beach. However, Cesar Chavez Park in Long Beach would be expanded and made more accessible.

Mr. McCann summarized other community impacts, including economic, environmental justice, public health, access and parking, and discussed proposed mitigation measures. He said the next steps include incorporation of the study results into the Draft EIR/EIS.

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

E. Status of Related Projects

Frank Quon, MTA, gave a summary update of several related projects, including the Zero Emission Truck Collaborative, I-710 Freight Corridor Public/Private Partnership Study, and I-710 Landscape/Aesthetics Master Plan.

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

F. Gateway Cities Technology Plan for I-710

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Guerrero, to postpone this report to the next meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. Status of Current Early Action Projects

Frank Quon, MTA, provided a brief status report on the early action projects, including the three utility studies and the sound walls feasibility study.
It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Guerrero, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

**H. Gateway Cities COG Engineer Report**

Jerry Wood reported that, after the release and review of the Draft EIR/EIS, the role of the Project Committee will be to pick a locally preferred alternative, which will result in a final EIR/EIS in about a year.

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

There were no matters from Project Committee members.

**X. Matters from the Chair**

There were no matters from the Chair.

**XI. Adjournment**

It was the consensus of the Project Committee to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.