

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
I-710 CORRIDOR PROJECT EIR/EIS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA
July 16, 2014**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Pagett at 1:37 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Bill Pagett, Chair, City of Maywood, and City of Paramount; Al Cablay, City of Bell; Chau Vu, City of Bell Gardens; Richard Garland, City of Carson; Maryam Babaki, City of Commerce; Glen Kau, City of Compton; Aaron Hoeyt, City of Cudahy; Mohammad Mostahkami, City of Downey; Desi Alvarez, City of Huntington Park; Derek Weiske, City of Long Beach; Charlie Honeycutt, City of Signal Hill; Art Cervantes, City of South Gate; Kevin Wilson, City of Vernon; James Yang, County of Los Angeles; Allison Morrow, Caltrans; Adrian Alvarez, MTA; Theresa Dau-Ngo, POLB; Kerry Cartwright, POLA; Alison Linder, SCAG; Peter Greenwald, SCAQMD; Donald Johnson, SCE (ex officio).

ABSENT: Elias Saikaly, City of Lynwood; Jacob Waclaw, FHWA & FTA; Representative from the California Highway Patrol; John Doherty, ACTA (ex officio); Mark Sedlacek, LADWP (ex officio).

Other attendees included: Ryan Kim, City of Bell Gardens; Sid Mousavi, City of Bell Gardens; Ali Cayir, City of Commerce; Ed Norris, City of Downey; Christopher Cash, City of Paramount; Candice Espinoza, City of South Gate; Lucy Olmos, Metro; Mario Gutierrez, Caltrans; Kekoa Anderson, GCCOG; Yvette Kirrin, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, GCCOG; Dave Levinsohn, URS; Shannon Willits, URS; Esmeralda Garcia, MIG; Julia Lester, Environ; Melissa de la Pena, CH2M Hill; Tom Choe, System Metrics Group; Pat Somerville, HNTB; Wayne Richardson, MARRS Services; Peter Miessner, Willdan Engineering; Leonard Sequeira, Parsons; Joe El Harake, Parsons; Ginny Brideau, The Robert Group; Ayman Salama, Transystems; Gene Bougdanos, RBF Baker; Anissa Voyiatzes, Psomas; Mark Peabody, Kleinfelder.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Derek Wieske.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

It was the consensus of the TAC to add a Presentation from the City of Commerce under Reports Item G and to take the presentation from the City of Bell Gardens first under that same item.

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VI. Matters from Staff

There were no matters from the staff.

VII. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Charlie Honeycutt, seconded by Derek Wieske, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2014. The motion was approved unanimously, with Mohammad Mostahkami abstaining.

VIII. Reports

A. Engineering Report on I-710 Corridor Project RDEIR/SDEIS

B. Environmental Report on I-710 Corridor Project RDEIR/SDEIS

Dave Levinsohn, URS, said he would cover these items under Report E.

C. Community Participation Status Report on I-710 Corridor Project

Esmeralda Garcia of MIG gave a PowerPoint presentation on recent public participation activities and the schedule ahead. She said that, in addition to the regular meetings, there would be a Corridor Advisory Committee workshop on Community Alternative 7 on July 17 to discuss CA7 in greater detail as compared to the redefined/refined Alternatives 5C and 7.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Kevin Wilson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Follow-up Regarding Traffic Operations Enhancement Strategies for Alternatives 5C and 7

Shannon Willits, URS, gave a PowerPoint presentation which followed up on the TAC comments made at the last meeting regarding the traffic operations. He noted that he gave one-on-one presentations with several

groups regarding the details of the results and was presenting a summary today. He said the results were an initial review of mainline performance under the existing conditions and the two build alternatives. He said there were a few items added as operational enhancements/refinements to “get the red out” (Level of Service F), and the build alternatives have dramatic improvement as a result. He said the remaining LOS F results from poor weaving conditions near freeway to freeway connections which is difficult to improve without eliminating connections or ramps, which isn’t feasible.

Mr. Willits said the traffic projections are conservative and may not reach those volumes. He said an open day scenario will also be evaluated in the future. With regard to Alternative 7, it only modernizes the freeway and does not increase capacity along the mainline; consequently, the result is poor operations. Adding lanes would result in widening the footprint. He said it doesn’t appear any more LOS F could be reduced without additional property acquisition.

It was moved by Mohammad Mostahkami, seconded by Art Cervantes, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

A. Engineering Report on I-710 Corridor Project RDEIR/SDEIS
B. Environmental Report on I-710 Corridor Project RDEIR/SDEIS
E. Recommendations of Alternatives to be Included for Evaluation in the RDEIR/SDEIS

Dave Levinsohn, URS, presented a summary description of Alternatives 5C and 7, as well as a comparison of where Community Alternative 7 differs from Alternative 7. Allison Morrow, Caltrans, briefed the TAC on the letter prepared by Caltrans which describes the jurisdictional and legal limitations regarding elements of CA7 which cannot be incorporated into the EIR. Adrian Alvarez noted that the purpose of the report is to provide the TAC with the same information that is being provided to the Corridor Advisory Committee.

Peter Greenwald stated that the AQMD had modified its recommendation as a result of the TAC’s comments and noted that they now match what was discussed at the last TAC meeting.

Art Cervantes recommended a second, non-freeway project to encompass those elements of CA7 that cannot be included in the RDEIR. He said the TAC, CAC, and Project Committee deal with the EIR as it relates to highway issues, but there can be another path to move forward without expanding the EIR. He said a second project could be pursued to incorporate the remaining elements of CA7 with funding opportunities and other jurisdictions outside the EIR.

Yvette Kirrin noted that Measure R funds cannot be used to fund non-transportation elements. Mohammad Mostahkami said he thought they could be an eligible cost if they are mitigation measures resulting from the freeway project.

It was moved by Art Cervantes, seconded by Mohammad Mostahkami, to include in the RDEIR/SDEIS Alternative 5C, Alternative 7, and the elements of CA7 that are legally and jurisdictionally implementable that meet the purpose and need of the I-710 EIR, and to incorporate the recommendation of the AQMD. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Art Cervantes, seconded by Mohammad Mostahkami, to direct Metro and the Gateway Cities COG to coordinate with the appropriate outside agencies on a program regarding the improvements from CA7 that cannot be included in the freeway EIR. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Current I-710 Early Action Project Update and Bi-Annual Programming of Funds Exercise

Yvette Kirrin introduced this item and noted that only \$7 million of uncommitted Measure R funds were available from the first ten years of funding programmed. Lucy Olmos, Metro, discussed a matrix which included programmed/committed funds. She said only about half those funds had been expended to date. It was noted that the construction of sound walls was not included in the first decade allocation. Adrian Alvarez introduced Tom Choe of System Metrics Group, who has been retained by MTA as Project Manager for the Measure R projects.

Bill Pagett said it is possible to advance funds further out. He also noted that the allocation by freeway and non-freeway categories should be reviewed since all of the money was programmed for “early action” projects. He said the \$5.5 million for the freeway on-ramp from Firestone Blvd. should be classified as a freeway improvement, as well as the sound wall projects.

It was the consensus of the TAC to hear the presentations of projects under Item G before taking action on this item.

G. Measure R Funding Requests Update

Sid Mousavi and Chau Vu presented a request from the City of Bell Gardens for the widening of the intersection of Florence Avenue and Eastern Avenue adjacent to the I-710 freeway. She said the request was

to close a \$1,221,068 funding gap from the Call for Projects. She said the City would like to move forward with the environmental and design efforts.

Ed Norris presented a request from the City of Downey for the improvement of Lakewood Blvd. between Telegraph Road and Gallatin Road. He said the request was for \$5 million in funding. He said the project is scheduled for construction in 2015.

Art Cervantes presented a request from the City of South Gate for \$1.5 million for design, with a possible later \$4.5 million for construction (if a 2009 Call for Projects restriction can be resolved) for a total of \$6 million for the Firestone Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancement Project, and a request for \$2 million to close a funding shortfall for the Firestone Blvd. /Atlantic Ave. intersection improvements.

Christopher Cash presented a request from the City of Paramount for improvements on Garfield Avenue. He said the City would pursue a phased approach, so that all funding isn't currently needed. He said construction on phase one would begin in 2016 and in 2017 for phase two. He said the total need is for \$10.3 million for phase one and \$9.5 million for phase two.

Maryam Babaki presented a request from the City of Commerce for \$10 million to close the funding gap to complete the Washington Boulevard Corridor Reconstruction Project. She noted that the project serves as the missing connector for northbound I-710 to southbound I-5.

It was moved by Art Cervantes, seconded by Bill Pagett, to request MTA to move \$200 million in early action projects funding forward to the first decade with \$40 million to come from non-freeway funding in the second decade, \$60 million from freeway funding to non-freeway funding, and \$100 million in "out year" freeway improvement funding, the latter to fund sound walls and other freeway projects. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Art Cervantes, seconded by Al Cablay, to approve all of the requests for project funding presented today by the cities contingent on Metro moving the funds forward as requested in the previous motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

H. COG Engineer's Report

There was no report.

IX. Matters from the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee

There were no matters from the TAC members.

X. Matters from the Chair

There were no matters from the Chair.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.