

Gateway Cities Connections



Working Together to Improve the Quality of Life for More Than 2 Million People in Southeast Los Angeles County

IT'S PROGRESS AS USUAL ON THE I-710 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIR/EIS) PROJECT URS AND MIG PREPARED TO BEGIN THE NEXT PHASE

Without any further delay and after several months of negotiations, MTA has finalized details with the selected firms URS and MIG. URS was selected to perform the environmental and engineering portion of the I-710 EIR/EIS project and MIG was selected to perform the community participation and outreach portion of the project.

The URS/MIG team was introduced to the I-710 Project Committee in November 2007. An overview of the work program, the community participation element of the project and a review of the development of the Air Quality Action Plan for the I-710 Corridor were all incorporated into the program. The committee was pleased to see the project to the next phase. Also included in the program that evening was the election of the second CO-Chair, Gil Hurtado of the City of South Gate, who was seated as Co-Chair with Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster. The two Co-Chairs together with the I-710 Corridor Cities, the I-710 Executive Committee and funding partners, as a multi-jurisdictional team, will guide the project through its three year process.

“We are extremely delighted that this next phase is beginning to take form. Our cities are ready to move forward with the process,” said Board President and Mayor of the City of Huntington Park, Elba Guerrero.

The kick-off meeting for the I-710 EIR/EIS project took place in early February 2008, which included the five funding partners, Gateway Cities COG, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles and Caltrans, along with dozens of consultants and staff to plan and develop strategies for this major model

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IT'S PROGRESS AS USUAL ON THE I-710 (continued)

transportation improvement project.

There is a great deal of work to do and a commitment to the communities along the I-710 Corridor. The community based planning and involvement begins with them.

We will have periodic updates as the project unfolds.

I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee

Bell ~ Bell Gardens ~ Carson ~ Commerce ~

Compton ~ Cudahy ~ Downey ~ Huntington

Park ~ Long Beach ~ Lynwood ~ Maywood ~

Paramount ~ Signal Hill ~ South Gate ~ Vernon ~

County of Los Angeles ~ Port of Long Beach ~ Port of Los

Angeles ~ I-5 JPA ~ Caltrans ~ MTA ~ SCAG ~ SGVCOG

I-710 EIR/EIS PROJECT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR BOB FOSTER RECOGNIZES IMMEDIATE PAST CO-CHAIR NANCY RAMOS FOR HER LEADERSHIP ON THE I-710 EIR/EIS PROJECT COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Immediate Past Co-Chair Nancy Ramos and Co-Chair Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster

I-5 CONSORTIUM CITIES JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY UPDATE—THE PATH TO CONSTRUCTION

In December 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) signed off on the Environmental Record of Decision (ROD), for the I-5 Project from the I-605 to the Orange County line. This action is the culmination of the study phase and paves the way for final design, right-of-way acquisition and ultimately, freeway construction. This segment of the I-5 project is fully funded for construction, with \$1.15 billion in state, federal and local funds. The I-5 from the I-605 to the Orange County line is scheduled to begin construction in November 2010, with construction commencing from the Orange County line north.

The construction is scheduled to occur in the following segments:

- November 2010—The Carmenita Interchange and the segment south of the Interchange to Valley View;
- 2011— The segment north of the Carmenita Interchange, to just north of Rosecrans Avenue;
- 2012—The segment between the Silverbow Pedestrian Bridge and the Union Pacific Rail Road overcrossing;
- Late 2012—The remaining segment connecting to the I-605.

Construction activities will commence in November of 2010 and each of the aforementioned segments will come on line through 2012. Before actual construction begins, there are many activities that have been and are occurring. There is the finalization of design, preparation of construction drawings, and right-of-way acquisition. One of the most complex and important activities is the development of the

construction staging and traffic management plans, which mitigate and minimize traffic impacts to the greatest extent possible during construction. It's anticipated that many of the cities, particularly Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs and La Mirada, will experience an influx of questions and concerns from the community regarding the project, including relocation questions, construction impacts, and general timeline inquiries.

Exciting times are ahead of us, but with any large scale construction project comes change accompanied by many unknowns and concerns. The I-5 JPA's mission is to: Protect cities while increasing capacity and improving safety and efficiency of the I-5 by working with transportation authorities to design I-5 corridor improvements that will not cause economic and social disruption of communities. The I-5 Cities Board of Directors is committed to making this mission a reality. Please feel free to refer inquiries to Ms. Yvette Kirrin, P. E., Executive Director/Authority Engineer for the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Ms. Kirrin is available to assist the I-5 communities in preparing for the upcoming construction. Ms. Kirrin can be reached at (310) 704-8194, or via email at Yvette@kes-inc.com

I-5 CONSORTIUM CITIES

**BUENA PARK ~
COMMERCE ~
LA MIRADA ~ NORWALK ~
SANTA FE SPRINGS**

SR-91/I-605/I-405 FREEWAY CORRIDORS GUIDING PRINCIPLES ADOPTED

The Gateway Cities COG has been preparing initial corridor studies for the SR-91, I-605 and I-405 freeways for the past year. The focus of this initial study has been to determine the types of improvements that could be done within the existing State right-of-way and placing limits on significant freeway widenings.

The results of that study will be completed by the summer of 2008 but have already led to adopted Guiding Principles for freeway development in Gateway Cities to stay within the existing State right-of-way and also suggests the development of a freight movement corridor using non-freeway routes.

The following Guiding Principles were adopted in October 2007 by the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee and in November 2007 by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors:

SR-91/I-605/I-405 Guiding Principles

Continued mobility is essential to preserving local economies and enhancing quality of life in the Gateway Cities and Southern California. Since it is not possible to build our way out of goods movement-related congestion via freeway construction without major disruption to these economies and this quality of life, the Corridor Cities Committee adopts the following Guiding Principles for SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridors:

- ◆ Confine new freeway construction (including adding lanes) to existing State right-of-way in order to preserve and enhance local economies and environments. New construction will not involve double-decking on any part of the freeway.

- ◆ Address freeway operational deficiencies, relieve freeway congestion “hot-spots” and decrease the impact of truck bypass traffic on communities as soon as possible.
- ◆ Secure funding for major corridor studies and improvements as soon as possible without affecting the funding for the I-5 or I-710 Freeway improvements.
- ◆ Support a separate freight movement corridor provided it is evaluated and constructed along non-freeway (e.g., rail or utility) alignments using minimally or non-polluting technologies.
- ◆ Implement additional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improvements in the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor and advocate a broader regional approach to support this initiative.
- ◆ Continue Metro/OCTA/GCCOG inter-county transportation planning efforts.
- ◆ Collaborate with the San Gabriel Valley COG to engage Metro in immediate development of Los Angeles County Goods Movement Strategy.
- ◆ Aggressively advocate with all responsible agencies to preserve and enhance health and quality of life in the corridor.
- ◆ Engage corridor cities in an ongoing process of city consultation and interactive communication.

For a full page copy of the Guiding Principles you may contact Gateway Cities COG staff or download from the Gateway Cities COG website at www.gatewaycog.org.

GATEWAY CITIES COG HOMELESS INITIATIVE PATH PARTNERS SELECTED TO PERFORM HOMELESS SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FOR GATEWAY CITIES COG REGION

The Gateway Cities COG continues its effort to address homelessness within its cities and as a region by selecting PATH Partners to perform the Homeless Services Needs Assessment and Strategy Development for the Gateway Cities COG Region.

This is a result of the initial announcement by the County of Los Angeles, in April 2007, of their commitment to fund \$150,000 to the Gateway Cities COG for the development of a homeless services strategy for the Gateway Cities region. Even more exciting, once there is a comprehensive strategy for homeless services in the Gateway Cities Region, the County is prepared to offer \$1.2 million per year to implement the services.

PATH Partners, the consultant firm selected to develop a regional strategy to reduce homelessness for the Gateway Cities COG, is a regional organization based in Los Angeles and serving Southern California. PATH Partners has over

twenty years of experience in direct services to homeless persons. PATH Partners is a product of PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), a twenty-four year old agency that has been serving people who are homeless through innovative programs.

"I am enthused with the progress the Gateway Cities COG has made in addressing homelessness since our Ad Hoc Committee was formed just a short time ago, and I am looking forward to working with PATH Partners during the strategy development process," said Elba Guerrero, President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness.

The project will determine the needs, challenges and opportunities in the Gateway Cities COG region, and will identify ways to promote solutions that will clearly make an impact in reducing the number of people living on our streets.

PRESENTATION TO BOARD MEMBER LARRY NELSON IN RECOGNITION OF HIS YEAR OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT



**LEFT TO RIGHT:
GORDON STEFENHAGEN,
2ND VICE PRESIDENT,
LARRY NELSON, IMMEDIATE
PAST PRESIDENT AND
ELBA GUERRERO, PRESIDENT
OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

OCTA/MTA INTER-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

In early 2007 we announced the first of numerous meetings between Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Since our last several reports the two agencies have launched and nearly completed a landmark study to evaluate transportation issues that cross the county line and explore alternatives for improving transportation connections for both counties.

This study was initiated in the summer of 2007 and will be completed by April 2008. This report will include a series of recommendations to be considered by the public, public officials and others in a series of public hearings and workshops to be held over the next few months. The study presented the following data: land use development patterns, population and employment forecasts, travel patterns, various transportation volumes, and capacity and performance of the existing and future year 2030 transportation network at the OC/LA county line.

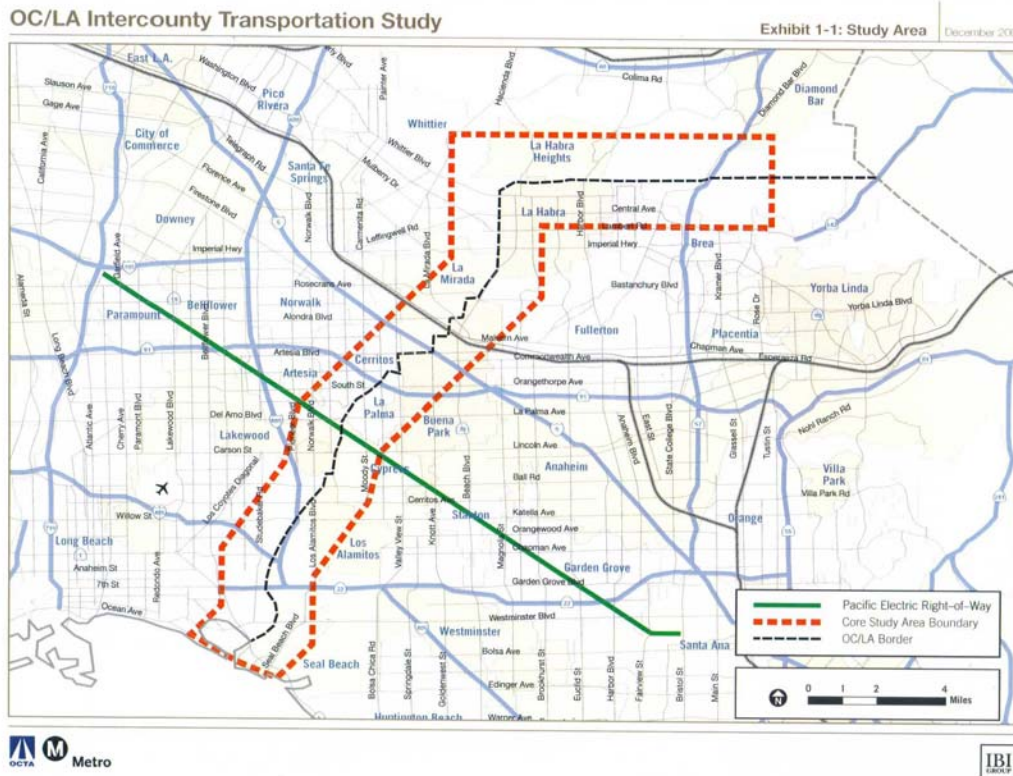
The study area boundaries are outlined in the map

below.

The preliminary recommendations include the following: continue transportation coordination between the two counties, freeway capacity improvements to the I-5, I-405, SR-91 and SR-57 freeways, arterial highway improvements that connect the two counties, optimize existing transportation systems including the uses of technology, improve transit connectivity particularly for Metrolink, Amtrak and express bus services between the two counties, explore further transit ideas for the Pacific Electric Rail Road right-of-way, and additional railroad grade separation projects for the BNSF line along with an additional track was also recommended.

We applaud the inter-county cooperation of the two County Transportation Commissions and look forward to much needed future developments to improve mobility.

For a copy of the full page map, you may contact Gateway Cities COG staff.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) GETS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As of January 1, 2008, the Southern California Association of Governments welcomed Hasan Ikhata as its new Executive Director. Mr. Ikhata succeeds Mark Pisano, who served Southern California as SCAG's Executive Director for 31 years. Mr. Pisano was honored for his contributions by three hundred guests at a dinner in downtown Los Angeles in late January.

Mr. Ikhata has been with SCAG for over ten years, and most recently held the position of Director of Planning & Policy. In this position he directed all of SCAG's major planning efforts, including the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. He has also worked for the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Mr. Ikhata promises to make SCAG more responsive to sub-regional needs and priorities

SCAG is currently updating the Regional Transportation Plan for the horizon year of 2035. A draft was released in December 2007 and the final plan is slated for approval by the Regional Council in April of this year. Gateway Cities COG has submitted comments to SCAG on behalf of its member cities.

SCAG

What's New

- FY 08-09 Draft Overall Work Program
 - SCAG 2008 Aviation Survey
- Draft 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan
- Draft 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
- Draft 2008 RTP Regional Transportation Plan
- 2008 State and Federal Legislative Program

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



During my tenure as President of the Board of Directors I have been personally committed to the continued direction of our organization in the areas of transportation planning, goods movement, air quality improvement, and funding for open space, parks and habitat protection. I am enthused and gratified about the new role of the Gateway Cities in

seeking solutions to homelessness in our region. This has been a new initiative in this year of continued leadership by our cities to address challenging issues.

As the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness I am excited with the progress the Gateway Cities COG has made in addressing homelessness, since our Ad Hoc Committee was formed just a short time ago. I am looking forward to working with PATH Partners during the strategy development process.

Elba Guerrero, President
Board of Directors

2008 CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

April 2008

2 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 PM

2 Transportation Committee Meeting 4:30 PM

9 SR-91/I-605/I-405 TAC 10:00 AM

May 2008

7 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 PM

7 Transportation Committee Meeting 4:30 PM

June 2008

4 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 PM

4 Transportation Committee Meeting 4:30 PM

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