



The I-710 Corridor Improvement Program Newsletter * Fall 2005

A regional study of interest to the residents of Bell, Bell Gardens, Carson, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Downey, East Los Angeles, Huntington Park, Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount, Maywood, Rancho Dominguez, South Gate, and Vernon

Community Considers Mini Study Findings

The draft report of the I-5/I-710 Alternatives Analysis Study (“Mini-Study”) has been completed and includes analyses of design issues relating to improvement of the freeways through Commerce and East Los Angeles. This mini-study was commissioned at the request of the Tier 1 Community Advisory Committees (CAC) from East Los Angeles and Commerce for the purpose of analyzing issues at the north end of the corridor for inclusion in the Locally Preferred Strategy (LPS).

The East Los Angeles and Commerce Tier 1 CACs have been meeting with the mini-study design team since June 2005, to identify and analyze area-specific issues in the sub-area between Atlantic-Bandini Avenues and the SR-60, including the I-5/I-710 interchange. The key issues analyzed include missing connectors at the I-5/I-710 interchange, truck ramps, the Washington Boulevard and Slauson Avenue interchanges, Bandini Boulevard, interchanges and arterial highways in East L.A., and I-5 HOV lanes.

One key finding is that there is limited demand for the missing connectors.

If they are omitted from the LPS, many potential property impacts can be avoided.

The mini-study is currently under review by the East L.A. and Commerce Tier 1 CACs, staff from Los Angeles County Supervisorial District One, and the Commerce City Council. Following these reviews, it is anticipated that the East L.A. and Commerce CACs will present the results of the mini-study to the Tier 2 committee for incorporation into the LPS.

MTA Brings Big Rig Relief Plan to 710

Nearly two years after the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee first heard about the Big Rig Tow Service demonstration program, the MTA has overcome logistical and budget constraints to put the first Big Rig Tow Trucks on the Freeway.

The program is built on the success of MTA’s Freeway Service Patrol which provides free assistance to disabled motorists on area freeways. As 710 drivers well know, a disabled big rig puts more lanes out of commission for more hours than any automobile.

Metro has purchased two specially designed heavy duty tow trucks which

began patrolling the 710 from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays following an October 3 ceremony. This is the first roadside assistance program in the nation to focus specifically on large trucks.

The demonstration will run for two years. It will be evaluated for permanent funding and expansion to other freeways. Caltrans, the CHP and the University of California will participate in the program evaluation.

Bus Service Gap Closed for Garfield Avenue Commuters

In September, the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council voted to extend bus service on Garfield Avenue, thus closing a long-standing gap in the route.

The South Gate Tier One Committee brought this issue to the attention of the Tier Two 710 Community Advisory Committee and local elected officials. Tier Two adopted a general position urging closing gaps in bus service.

Subsequently, Gateway Cities COG and MTA Gateway Cities Sector staff began exploring solutions for Garfield Avenue.

An extension of MTA bus line 258 was proposed in the recent round of service changes, public hearings were held in August and at its September meeting, the Sector Council approved the change. The new service will begin December 19 or later. In addition, line 258 will be routed east on Alondra and south on Paramount Blvd. to provide improved service to the Paramount Civic Center.

Save the Date...

Mobility 21's Fourth Annual Countywide Transportation Summit
Monday, November 14, 2005, 7 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Long Beach Convention Center
Programs and registration information can be accessed at www.mobility21.com.

Congress Earmarks Funds for I-710 Corridor

After years of deliberations, the U. S. Congress passed a transportation reauthorization bill. The bill lays out a transportation funding plan for the next several years, although annual appropriation action is still required.

Included are several key items for the I-710 Corridor. The bill, known as SAFETEA-LU, provides \$5.5 million for the I-710 and will help fund the environmental studies for the Locally Preferred Strategy. Environmental studies will consider air quality, noise, light, water quality and other issues of concern to the community as well as continuing detail traffic, traffic safety and engineering work.

The bill also provides for Intelligent Transportation System integration, which would apply technology such as traffic signal coordination and traveler information systems to the Corridor emphasizing goods movement. The goal will be coordination among state, local and private systems.

Another high point is nearly \$3 million in new funding for the Gateway Cities Clean Air Program for replacement, and retirement, of old diesel trucks.

Highway funds are also included for the Gerald Desmond Bridge, and improvements to arterials including Atlantic, Eastern, Rosecrans, Paramount, and Washington. Thanks to all the Representatives who supported the regions' needs.

The I-710 Corridor Improvement Program Newsletter is prepared by staff of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

