

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
I-710 CORRIDOR EIR/EIS PROJECT COMMITTEE**

**A Meeting Held at Progress Park**

**15500 Downey Ave.  
Paramount, CA**

**October 29, 2015**

**I. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Lena Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by self-introductions:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Nestor Enrique Valencia, City of Bell; Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens; Hugo Argumedo, City of Commerce; Cristian Markovich, City of Cudahy; Luis Marquez, City of Downey; Lena Gonzalez, City of Long Beach, Co-Chair; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Lori Y. Woods, City of Signal Hill; Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate, Co-Chair; William Davis, City of Vernon; KeAndra Dodds, County of Los Angeles; Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach; David Libatique, Port of Los Angeles; Lilia Leon, I-5 JPA; Ron Kosinski, Caltrans; Diane DuBois, MTA; Judy Mitchell, South Bay Cities COG (ex officio).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Albert Robles, City of Carson; Janna Zurita, City of Compton; Marilyn Sanabria, City of Huntington Park; Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood; Oscar Magana, City of Maywood; Annie Nam, SCAG; Barbara Messina, San Gabriel Valley COG; Steve Broyles, LADWP (ex officio); Donald Johnson, Southern California Edison (ex officio).

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Pagett, City Engineer, City of Paramount and Chair, I-710 Technical Advisory Committee; Silissa Uriarte, Chief of Staff, Long Beach Councilmember Lena Gonzalez; James Yang, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Ernesto Chaves, Transportation Planning Manager, Metro; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; John Vassiliades, I-710 Project Manager, Caltrans; Cory Allen, Consultant, Office of Senator Ricardo Lara; Marisol Barajas, District Director, Office of Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell; Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer, Watershed Conservation Authority; Dave Levinsohn, Vice President/Senior Project Manager, AECOM; Esmeralda Garcia, Principal, MIG; John Morris, Latham & Watkins; Ivy Tsai, Deputy General Counsel, GCCOG; Richard Powers, Executive Director, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, Deputy Executive Director, GCCOG; Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy, GCCOG; Kekoa Anderson,

Consulting Engineer, GCCOG; Yvette Kirrin, Consulting Engineer, GCCOG; Nancy Pfeffer, Regional Planning Manager, GCCOG.

### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Daniels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **IV. Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

### **V. Public Comments**

Joan Greenwood, President, Wrigley Area Neighborhood Alliance, Long Beach, stated that a 20-acre site at the I-405/I-710 interchange and part of the Long Beach Riverlink plan is currently undergoing remediation and would be an ideal place for storm water treatment facilities.

### **VI. Matters from Staff**

There were no matters from staff.

### **VII. Consent Calendar**

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Leon, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 30, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously, with Co-Chair Gonzalez and Co-Chair Hurtado abstaining.

### **VIII. Reports**

#### **A. Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan**

Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer, Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA), gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided an update on the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. She identified the WCA as a joint powers authority of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. She said the WCA seeks to protect open space for people and wildlife; support water conservation and ecosystem improvement; inspire environmental stewardship; and expand public access to existing and new recreational opportunities. She said the Master Plan project is funded through a \$500,000 grant to the WCA from the Strategic Growth Council, \$250,000 in grant funds from the RMC to North East Trees, a partner in developing the plan, and \$250,000 in cash and in-kind match from cities in the Gateway Cities region.

Ms. Enos said the focus of the Master Plan is on the “missing middle” of the watershed between the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan to the north through the City of Los Angeles and the Long Beach Riverlink Plan to the south, as well as to the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River as they extend south through the Gateway Cities region below the Emerald Necklace in the San Gabriel Valley.

Ms. Enos reviewed the project schedule and identified the next steps as establishing a technical advisory committee, holding a lower San Gabriel River workshop in November, and finalizing the collection of data from regional and local sources.

Co-Chair Hurtado said the plan offered new opportunities for urban greening and other projects with real funding.

It was moved by Co-Chair Hurtado, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **B. Caltrans Response to CA-7**

Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director for Environmental Planning, Caltrans, gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said Alternative 7 was added to the RDEIR/SDEIS process in response to public comments received on the 2012 Draft EIR/EIS. Mr. Kosinski said most of the elements of Community Alternative 7 (CA-7) will be studied during the RDEIR/SDEIS process. Other elements, he said, are currently being undertaken by the Gateway Cities COG in the Livability Initiative. Some elements of CA-7 can be included as mitigations for the I-710 Corridor RDEIR/SDEIS once impact analysis is complete.

Mr. Kosinski addressed how other specific elements of CA-7 are being studied in the RDEIR/SDEIS, including the zero/near-zero emission freight corridor, minimization of right-of-way and property displacement, transit improvements and enhancements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, Los Angeles River improvements, and project labor and local hiring targets.

Member DuBois referred the Project Committee members to a fact sheet regarding the I-710 project alternatives.

It was moved by Co-Chair Hurtado, seconded by Member Argumedo, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **C. I-710 Project Contract Modification**

Member DuBois reported on the MTA Board of Directors motion 22.1, which authorized a contract modification with AECOM and provided additional

funding to add elements of Community Alternative 7 to alternatives 5C and 7 in the draft EIR/EIS.

Member DuBois introduced Metro Transportation Planning Manager Ernesto Chaves, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on Motion 22.1. Mr. Chaves said the motion adds elements of CA-7 to the two build alternatives and also separates three elements to be studied separately from the draft EIR/EIS.

Mr. Chaves listed the CA-7 elements that will be studied as part of the alternatives:

- Geometric design under Alternative 7 that eliminates significant right-of-way impacts;
- Under Alternate 7, evaluation of the feasibility to operate zero emission trucks on the freight corridor should the technology be available;
- Implementing high frequency express bus transit along the main I-710 corridor;
- Upgrades to the existing Los Angeles River bike path;
- Replacement/enhancement of approximately 28 existing bridges/underpasses to ensure safe and easily accessible freeway crossings to reduce gaps in crossing over one-half mile;
- Adding transit service on the bus and rail lines serving the I-710 project area;
- Traffic control and traffic management measures to reduce congestion on local streets and arterials before considering expanding lanes;
- The use of best available control technology construction equipment;
- Ensure implementation of complete street treatments that promote “livable neighborhoods”;
- Maximize the number of new trees, shrubs, and foliage with the proposed state right-of-way;
- Identify suitable locations within the right-of-way for storm water best management practices; and
- Incorporate into the project design measures to reduce the level of impacts to the Los Angeles River’s riverbanks, trails, pocket parks, and native landscaping.

Mr. Chaves identified the three elements to be studied outside the EIR/EIS:

- Construction of a new Class 1 bike path and access points within the Flood Control District right-of-way on the western level of the Los Angeles River from Pacific Coast Highway to Imperial Highway to connect with the existing bike path;

- Construction of a new Class 1 bike path and access points within the Southern California Edison right-of-way between the Los Angeles Blue Line and Sportsman Drive;
- Construction of a new Class 1 bike path and access points within the Southern California Edison and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power rights-of-way from Willow Street to connect with the Rio Hondo bike trail at Garfield Avenue.

Mr. Chaves said staff would return to the MTA Board in 60 days with a contract modification for the budget and schedule of scope elements in Motion 22.1.

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

#### **D. I-710 EIR/EIS Project Updates**

Dave Levinsohn, Senior Project Manager, AECOM, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Project Committee on the engineering activities. He said the footprint of freeway design options had been finalized, geometric reviews with Caltrans and GHWA had been completed, and that consultations with Southern California Edison, the Army Corps of Engineers, the railroads, and the city staffs are underway.

Mr. Levinsohn reviewed the project schedule, saying that the technical studies should be completed in summer 2016, with public circulation of the RDEIR/SDEIS the following winter, and selection of a preferred alternative in summer 2017.

Esmeralda Garcia, MIG, reviewed the recent outreach activities, including the Technical Advisory Committee and Corridor Advisory Committee meetings.

Nidia Erceu, Los Angeles, said if we make decisions based on current technologies we would never advance.

Angelo Logan, Long Beach, thanked the Committee for the support of the community and, in particular, for the Metro Board action. He said he sees this as an opportunity to work together.

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

#### **E. I-710 Early Action Projects Update**

There was no report.

## **F. Update on I-710 Livability Initiative**

Yvette Kirrin, Gateway Cities COG Engineer, gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided a status update on the I-710 Livability Initiative. She said the Livability Initiative is being led by the Gateway Cities COG in response to community input and includes a collection of partners with potential funding sources, and addresses areas where Caltrans lacks jurisdiction.

Ms. Kirrin said the major developments since the July meeting of the Project Committee have been the ongoing collaboration with the Watershed Conservation Authority, the adoption of Motion 22.1 by the MTA Board of Directors, and the preparation by MTA of an application for a Caltrans Sustainability Grant to fund the development of the Livability Initiative. She said the grant funding would be used to focus elements of the plan specific to complete streets and active transportation.

Ms. Kirrin referred the Project Committee to a draft letter from the Committee in support of the grant application by MTA for the Caltrans Sustainability Grant.

It was moved by Member Marquez, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the letter of support for the Caltrans Sustainability Grant application. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **G. COG Engineers Report**

Yvette Kirrin presented an update on the development of the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan (STP). She said at Christmas it will have been two years since the initiation of the development of the STP. She reviewed the schedule for the remaining elements of the STP, saying that the complete draft plan should be available for approval by the STP Technical Advisory Committee in February 2016.

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

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

Member Daniels congratulated everyone for finally coming together in making this very important project work.

Member Dodds thanked everyone who supported Motion 22.1 by Supervisor Solis.

**X. Matters from the Chair**

Co-Chair Hurtado said he was very glad to be back after his recent operation.

**XI. Adjournment**

It was the moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Argumedo to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.