



The Gateway Cities
Air Quality Action Plan

AQAP Technical Roundtable—August 10, 2011 Meeting Summary

Location: Gateway Cities Council of Governments,
16401 Paramount Boulevard,
Paramount, CA 90723

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Invited Participants (those in attendance highlighted below)

Federal

Susan Sturges, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (webinar)
Alan Hicks, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Regional

Susan Nakamura, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Ian MacMillan, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Alternate)
Jonathan Nadler, Southern California Association of Governments
Alison Linder, Southern California Association of Governments (Alternate)

Public Works and Planning

Ruben Arceo, City of La Mirada Community Development
Steve Forster, City of La Mirada Public Works
Jill Griffiths, City of Long Beach Planning Department
Wendell Johnson, I-710 and 91/605/405 Technical Advisory Committees, City of Compton
Dorian Alcantar, City of Compton
Steve Lefever, City of South Gate Community Development
David McDonald, Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department
Daniel Ojeda, City of Lynwood Public Works

Ports

Kevin Maggay, Port of Los Angeles
TBD, Port of Long Beach

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Public Health

Nelson Kerr, City of Long Beach Health and Human Services

Kathy Estrada, City of Long Beach Health and Human Services (Alternate)

Lewis Pozzebon, City of Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department

Leonard Grossburg, City of Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department (Alternate)

Evenor Masis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Robert Vasquez, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

At Large

Jon Leonard, TIAX, LLC

LaDonna DiCamillo, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

Susan Ahn, Long Beach Unified School District

Carl Rosenbaugh, Long Beach Unified School District (Alternate)

Project Team

GCCOG: Jerry Wood, Karen Heit

Metro: Adrian Alvarez, Danielle Valentino, Alex Oster (webinar), Sarah Jepson

ICF Team: Scott Broten, Arlene Rosenbaum (webinar), Susan DeSantis, Kristen Torres, Maria Yanez-Forgash, Yesenia Arias (webinar), Raul Velazquez (webinar), Jonathan Heller, Ed Carr, Peggy Lobnitz, Andrew Papon

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Agenda

I. Opening Comments and Introductions

Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis welcomed the Roundtable members and thanked them for their dedication and participation in this process to improve air quality in the Gateway Cities. She proceeded to lead the self-introductions.

II. Agenda Overview Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis provided an agenda overview. She noted that, in addition to several oral reports and presentations, the meeting was to include an in-depth discussion of the I-710 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) pathways and scope of work.

III. Oral Reports

A. AQAP Project Update,

Scott Broten, ICF International

Scott Broten presented a Status and Schedule Update report on the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). He reviewed the Participation Framework and technical tasks related to this effort, some of which are related to the COG comprehensively through the AQAP, while others are linked to the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. Mr. Broten described the relationships between the I-710 EIR/EIS, its technical reports and the AQAP and its technical reports. He reviewed the boundaries for the I-710-specific studies and for the AQAP studies. Mr. Broten then presented a 6-month outlook for the documents in progress and moved into a longer-term calendar that outlined all tasks being completed by early 2013. The Community Medical Needs Assessment, I-710 Health Impact Assessment, I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Concept report, and I-710 Near Roadway Modeling report (with Ultrafines) are four tasks related to the I-710 Corridor Project which are currently underway in the AQAP. These tasks are scheduled for completion by the end of November 2011, so that Caltrans has time to consider them for inclusion in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

Discussion Summary: *There was a question regarding the expected release date for the I-710 EIR/EIS and whether Caltrans has to accept the HIA and include it as part of the EIR/EIS. To this Mr. Broten went over portions of his presentation, and walked the group through that topic. The group reviewed the project study area for each of the project components. Clarification was requested on the geographic boundaries of each project.*

The Technical Roundtable (TRT) asked if they will be able to comment on the final HIA product, if they will be receiving the detailed protocols for Near Roadway Modeling and Community Needs Assessment and if the Near Roadway Modeling methodologies will be shared with the group. Ms. DeSantis indicated that the Technical Roundtable will be able to comment on the final HIA product. She also indicated that the detailed protocols for the Near Roadway Modeling and Community Needs Assessment will be made available. She noted that if TRT Members are

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interested, a webinar will be scheduled to fully review and discuss the methodology for this and other technical studies. The group agreed that it would be a good idea.

B. Participation Framework Committees

Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis delivered a Participation Framework Committees Report to update the Committee on the activities of the AQAP Technical Working Groups, Roundtables, and Environmental Committee. She reviewed the participation goals of the AQAP, the participation framework, the roles and responsibilities of each of the AQAP groups and how they interact with the Gateway Cities COG. These groups include the I-710 Health Impact Assessment Technical Working Group, the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment (AQ/HRA) Technical Working Group, the Technical Roundtable and the Advisory Roundtable, and the Environmental Committee. For each group, Ms. DeSantis presented their composition, the topics they were presented with in their July Meetings, the issues that arose, and their recommendations to the subsequent group in the participation framework (i.e. the AQAP Roundtables and the Environmental Committee).

Discussion Summary: *Ms. DeSantis reviewed the Environmental Committee (EC) participants list and noted that there is interest in having a representative from the Port of Los Angeles serve on the committee. A question was raised regarding the issues identified by the EC, specifically on how information is conveyed to the Transportation Committee (TC) (comment on bullet 3 of page 40 in the presentation). The concern is that the message may be diluted as it moves through the process. Ms. DeSantis further noted that the comment was specific to the construction staging and phasing concept. It was clarified that the Roundtables and Gateway Cities COG Environmental Committee and Transportation Committee are open to the public. One TRT Member stated that their participation in this meeting does not mean they are in full agreement with the TRT recommendations. She further noted that until they review the final product is reviewed, she will not be comfortable providing comments. Ms. DeSantis noted that the meeting summaries from that various committees are available for review.*

C. Community Medical Needs Assessment

Jonathan Heller, Human Impact Partners

Mr. Heller discussed the COG-wide Community Medical Needs Assessment, which studies the health care resources and facilities in the COG subregion. The data analysis for the CMNA is complete and the report is under preparation. Upon completion, the findings will be presented to the Roundtables. Mr. Heller provided an overview of the geographic scales, the metrics and the types of data being used for the CMNA. Jerry Wood informed the group that the community needs assessment is scheduled to be complete by the end of November and that it is part of the HIA, which is why it is on an expedited schedule.

Discussion Summary: *It was clarified the difference between the health district and service planning area is a difference of scale. There was also a question on whether cancer rate is part of the metrics. Mr. Heller indicated that he would need to check to see if that is the case and, later*

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in the meeting, reported that lung cancer was included as it is a primary cause of death in the region.

D. Near Roadway Modeling Update

Ed Carr, ICF International

Mr. Carr reviewed the status and findings of the I-710 Near Roadway Modeling Assessment, which is currently analyzing modeling outputs and comparing them with actual readings.

Discussion Summary: *There was a concern expressed regarding the methodology and the perceived discrepancies between the modeled and the monitored data based on the findings to date. Mr. Carr noted that this level of discrepancy is not uncommon in other projects. Ultimately, the TRT wants to ensure that the best methodology is used. There was also a question on how the sites were selected and if it is typical to have two monitoring sites. Mr. Carr indicated that having two sites is advantageous. Mr. Wood added that the sites were selected based on the best information available from UCLA. A request was made to have the spreadsheets, model files, and any other information available for review. Mr. Wood indicated that the information will be made available to the TRT.*

IV. Technical Roundtable Discussion on Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

TRT Discussion Summary

Air Quality Effects Pathway Comments: *TRT continues to agree that climate change should be de-prioritized. Clarifying questions were asked regarding the inclusion of all changes in construction and rail traffic. Additionally, TRT members wanted to know if there are economic costs for the health outcomes, whether or not a change in medical costs can be captured, and if health outcomes include seniors.*

Noise Effects Pathway: *There was a question on whether or not hearing loss was captured in the pathway. Clarification was also requested on whether the pathway is covering the construction phase of the project or just 2035. Mr. Heller clarified that it only covers 2035. There were also questions on whether the soundwalls will have added benefits, such as reducing diesel particulates and if annoyances and disturbances are included and quantifiable. Clarification was requested on whether peak levels or 24 hour are being used in the pathway.*

Mobility Effects Pathway: *Clarification was requested on the meaning of “social cohesion”. Mr. Heller responded that social cohesion refers to a social network, a sense of community, including family. There was also concern with the use of the terms “stress and stress related illnesses.” These terms are viewed as too broad, and there are too many variables that can affect stress. Mr. Heller indicated that data for this item would be more of a qualitative nature.*

Traffic Safety Pathway: *Clarifying questions were asked regarding how much of this would be incorporated into the Air Quality effects pathway. Clarification was also requested on how much of the data will be quantitative. Mr. Heller indicated that collision data in corridor for the last*

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3 years would be quantitative and that predictions would be qualitative. There was also a question on the inclusion of vehicle technology. Mr. Heller indicated that it would be included.

Jobs and Economic Development effects: *It was suggested that benefits be changed to read “personal benefits” or something different that would provide more clarification.*

Neighborhood Resources: *It was suggested to breakdown population groups by age. Mr. Heller indicated that this pathway would involve mostly qualitative analysis.*

General Comments on Pathways: *The TRT agreed to share comments provided at this meeting with the Advisory Roundtable. There was a question on whether or not additional comments could be provided following this meeting; Ms. DeSantis encouraged TRT members to do so prior to the August 24th meeting of the Environmental Committee.*

V. Presentations

A. Early Action Items Discussion

Peggy Lobnitz, Pika Environmental

Dr. Lobnitz presented an overview of the Early Action Items. The TRT reviewed the Early Action Items and provided a number of comments and recommendations for items five through nine.

Item #5 Restrictions on Truck Idling

It was noted that the City of La Mirada already has some idling controls; however, due to limited space for parking, proximity of housing, and industrial space, they are looking at vacant land for truck stops. J. Wood asked if sites for truck parking would help and there was general consensus that it would.

It was suggested that in addition to parking sites, support services should be considered. This could include providing information to truckers such as locations for restaurants and ATM machines versus an enforcement approach.

It was recommended that truck stops include accommodations for refrigerated trucks. Concern was expressed that that truckers are already being cited for a variety of other violations; therefore, consideration should be given to the negative impact the 5-minute idling citations would have on businesses development.

It was also noted that most cities do not want truck stops; thus, an education process to explain the benefits to cities would have to be employed.

It was further noted that in order for the truck stops to be embraced, they would need to be revenue generators for cities.

It was recommended that this early action investigate coordination of truck routes between cities. There was general agreement on this especially because of the potential spill over between cities.

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Truck buffering at truck stops was also recommended.

It was suggested that a benchmark could be what the Inland Empire is doing regarding truck stops. There was general consensus that other jurisdictions would be interested in discussion of this early action. Ms. DeSantis indicated that the early action items could be placed on the agenda of one or two Gateway Cities committees for discussion, and moved forward as an action item.

The TRT agreed to move their recommendations through the next steps of the AQAP committee process.

Item #6 Additional Conditions for Warehouse and Distribution Facilities

The TRT agreed to move this early action through the committee process.

Item #7—Construction Equipment Requirements

K. Heit clarified that the Green Construction Equipment policy was adopted for all Metro facilities; Phase 2 is still pending (projects that are funded by Metro).

It was noted that AQMD has funded programs for construction equipment (SOON).

TRT agreed to move recommendations through the committee process.

Item #8 Diesel Exhaust Exposure Reduction to Sensitive Receptors

There was extensive discussion on HEPA filter programs. Clarification was requested on the distance of the sensitive receptors from the project. There was also a question on how implementation of these programs could be done. Ms. Lobnitz indicated that the County could be asked for feedback on implementation. Mr. Wood further noted that a presentation to Gateway Cities Board of Directors could be added and an invitation could be extended to County officials.

There was also a question on how schools are incorporating filters. Ian MacMillan, SCAQMD, indicated that the last school bond funded upgrades to tracking systems indicate that newer schools do include filtration system but older schools do not. It was also noted that partnering with LA Unified School District would be beneficial, as well as contacting them for further input.

TRT agreed to move their recommendations through the committee process.

Item #9 Buy-Local Policies

It was noted that many cities are already implementing this type of policies. Ms. Lobnitz indicated that the next steps would be to document that this is happening and identify gaps.

The TRT agreed to move their recommendations through the committee process.

Early Action Next Steps

There was general consensus on the need to bring elected official and public works directors along in the education and implementation process of the AQAP. AQAP 101 was suggested as a

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possible opportunity to bring elected officials and staff along. The TRT also agreed that the ART should comment on the Early Action Items.

B. AQ/HRA Final Protocol

Item was carried over to the next meeting.

C. I-710 Construction Staging and Phasing Emissions Preview

Item was carried over to the next meeting.

D. Sensitive Receptors—Draft Interim Report

Item will be carried over to the next meeting.

The TRT asked if comments are welcomed on the Sensitive Receptors List. Ms. DeSantis indicated that comments are welcome and pointed out that there are maps to go with this document which will be sent upon request. The City of Long Beach asked to obtain copies of the maps.

VI. Public Comments

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting to offer comments.

VII. Next Steps and Wrap Up

Ms. DeSantis requested that the Technical Roundtable review and provide comments on the list of Sensitive Receptors. Ms. DeSantis noted that the Technical Roundtable will be notified on a date for the Technical webinar. The invitation will be extended to other roundtable members to attend the technical webinar.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.