

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

**A Meeting Held at  
South Gate Municipal Auditorium  
4900 Southern Avenue  
South Gate, Ca 90280**

**July 30, 2015**

**I. Call to Order**

Gateway Cities COG General Counsel Richard D. Jones called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by self-introductions:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Nestor Enrique Valencia, City of Bell; Hugo Argumedo, City of Commerce; Emma Sharif, City of Compton; Cristian Markovich, City of Cudahy; Marilyn Sanabria, City of Huntington Park; Sal Alatorre, City of Lynwood; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Lori Y. Woods, City of Signal Hill; Bill DeWitt, City of South Gate; William Davis, City of Vernon; KeAndra Dodds, County of Los Angeles; Doug Drummond, Port of Long Beach; David Libatique, Port of Los Angeles; Lilia Leon, I-5 JPA; John Vassiliades, Caltrans; Diane DuBois, MTA; Alison Linder, SCAG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens; Al Robles, City of Carson; Luis Marquez, City of Downey; Lena Gonzalez, City of Long Beach; Oscar Magana, City of Maywood; Barbara Messina, SGVCOG; Judy Mitchell, SBCCOG (ex officio); Mark Sedlacek, LADWP (ex officio); Donald Johnson, Southern California Edison (ex officio).

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Jose Luis Solache, City of Lynwood; Celina Luna, Chief of Staff, Long Beach Councilmember Roberto Uranga; Bill Pagett, City Engineer, City of Paramount and Chair, I-710 Technical Advisory Committee; Jorge Rifa, City Administrator, City of Commerce; Art Cervantes, Director of Public Works, City of South Gate; Kevin Wilson, Director of Public Works, City of Vernon; Ernesto Chaves, Transportation Planning Manager, Metro; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Rob McCann, President, LSA Associates, Inc.; Rick Cameron, Port of Long Beach; Chris Cannon, Port of Los Angeles; Richard D. Jones, General Counsel, GCCOG; 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.

The General Counsel stated that, because both Project Committee co-chairs were absent, the Committee needed to elect a temporary chair.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Leon, to elect Member DeWitt as temporary chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **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**

There were no public comments.

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

There were no matters from staff.

### **VII. Consent Calendar**

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **VIII. Reports**

#### **A. I-710 Project Updates**

Rob McCann, LSA Associates, gave a PowerPoint presentation which updated the Project Committee on the recent engineering activities, environmental work, and the upcoming schedule. He recounted the community participation activities and reported that the Corridor Advisory Committee had voted 3 to 3, with one abstention, to approve the Livability Initiative.

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

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

There was no report.

### **C. Reports from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles on the Clean Air Action Plan and Job Importance**

Rick Cameron, Managing Director of Planning and Environmental Affairs for the Port of Long Beach, and Chris Cannon, Director of Environmental Management for the Port of Los Angeles, addressed the Project Committee on their respective ports' Clean Air Action Plan and the improvements that have been made since the inception of the two ports' plans. Mr. Cannon said they had met with focus groups of industry, environmental, and community representatives because they want to create a dialogue on the development of Clean Air Action Plan III. He said they would like to connect with the planning activities of the cities in the Gateway Cities subregion and to talk with the cities about the ports' plans for infrastructure improvements.

Wally Baker, Jobs First Alliance, said that he wanted to say how great the ports have been in that they have already reached their 2023 goals. He said that, regardless of the alternative that is chosen for the I-710 project, a project labor agreement can be set up.

Member Alatorre said he would like the ports to look at the 2007-09 model year trucks that were implemented during the earlier phase of the program which should now be replaced. Mr. Cameron responded that they have seen a transition to 2010 model trucks. Mr. Cannon said this is the whole issue—do we replace them with cleaner trucks now, or do we wait for a couple of more years for zero emission trucks?

Member DuBois said we can't move forward with a project labor agreement until we have a project. She said the Livability Initiative is intended to make things possible that can't be funded with transportation dollars. She said we are working with Assemblyman Rendon, who has authored AB 530 which can move these goals forward.

Paola Rodriguez, Communities for a Better Environment, said she was here to support CA7.

Mark Lopez, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said he was glad to see labor out, especially because of the misinformation and lack of information. He said Caltrans can't keep coming back to this Committee and expect a different result. He said CA7 would promote more jobs, including union jobs.

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

### **D. I-710 Livability Initiative**

Yvette Kirrin, GCCOG Consultant Engineer, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the framework of the I-710 Livability Initiative, which is

intended to study those community and environmental enhancement elements that cannot be included in the EIR/EIS for the I-710 freeway improvements. She identified elements such as Los Angeles River connections and enhancements; rail and bus transit; parks, open space, and recreation; public art; complete streets/active transportation; and health benefits due to access to open space. She said the initiative would be led by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments in response to community input. She said it includes a collection of partners with possible funding sources, includes a group broader than transportation, and addresses areas where Caltrans lacks jurisdiction.

Ms. Kirrin outlined potential funding sources for the initiative, including Metro or city assessments, as well as in-kind contributions from Metro or Caltrans. She said the next steps would be to initiate dialogue with representatives from other agencies, solicit letters of support, and to convene the initiative.

Iris Verduzco, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said she supports CA7 and the Livability Initiative is no substitute.

Jan Victor Andasan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said the Livability Initiative does not include all of the elements of CA7. He said the Project Committee should not support the Livability Initiative but prevail upon Caltrans to study CA7.

Mark Lopez, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said he is glad that people are confirming that Caltrans is refusing to study CA7. He asked why we are allowing them to get away with it. He said their talk of not having jurisdiction to study the Los Angeles River is a red herring because the initial plans for the project including putting power lines in the river. He said if CA7 is not in the EIR, then you will assume liability.

Linda Kamara-Kay, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said CA7 should be studied in the EIR and no action should be taken on the Livability Initiative.

Annie Martinez, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, urged the Project Committee to not take any action on the Livability Initiative but choose CA7.

Julius Calacsan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said CA7 includes an improved transit system. He urged that no action be taken on the Livability Initiative.

Hugo Lujan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, said CA7 includes options that Caltrans said were possible and that the Project Committee supported CA7. Then Caltrans would not include CA7 in the EIR. He said the Livability Initiative is another way of saying “no” to us.

Mauro Barrera, Communities for a Better Environment, said it looks like the community is being pushed aside. He said the Livability Initiative is a distraction and urged the Project Committee to reject it.

Suzanne Browne, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, urged the Project Committee to not support the Livability Initiative because it is not a substitute for CA7. She said it is an unfunded concept. She said Caltrans has not provided legal justification for not including CA7 in the EIR.

Members Leon and Alatorre said we need to have state legislators here because we are dealing with a state agency.

Casandra Casanova, Communities for a Better Environment, said CA7 would be a good choice.

Angie Evangelista, Communities for a Better Environment, said she supported CA7 as the only reasonable plan.

Natalie Mora, spoke in favor of CA7.

Esmeralda Viramonte, Communities for a Better Environment, said she supported the study of CA7.

Stephanie Diaz, Communities for a Better Environment, spoke in support of CA7.

Gerardo Gutierrez, Communities for a Better Environment, said he supported CA7 and that we need to put the community first.

Francine Lopez, Communities for a Better Environment, said she supported CA7.

Melanye Lopez, Communities for a Better Environment, said I-710 is a dark cloud over our community.

Justice Herrera, Communities for a Better Environment, said I-710 causes pollution to the Los Angeles River and CA7 would improve the river.

Cynthia Montes, Communities for a Better Environment, said diesel trucks cause health problems. She said she supports CA7 because of the electric truck corridor.

Stephanie Lopez-Silva, Communities for a Better Environment, said she supports CA7 so that she could take a bicycle to school.

Alejandra Silva, Communities for a Better Environment, said I-710 is highly congested with pollution and she supports CA7.

Daisy Banuelos, Communities for a Better Environment, said she supports a public/private partnership, river improvements, and public transit, which are all part of CA7.

Esmeralda Sanchez, Communities for a Better Environment, said trucks cause pollution; the community's solution is CA7.

Rocio Reyes, Communities for a Better Environment, spoke in support of CA7.

Angel Rincon, Communities for a Better Environment, said I-710 will take away people's houses and that he supports CA7.

Monica Alferez, Communities for a Better Environment, said widening of I-710 is not a benefit to our community and that she supports CA7.

Aldo Sierra, Communities for a Better Environment, said he would hate to see homes taken away. He said he is here to support CA7 as he has friends with asthma.

Hector Villegas, Communities for a Better Environment, said he is here because he supports CA7.

Cindy Garcia, Communities for a Better Environment, said she supports CA7 because it would help improve the Los Angeles River.

Jose Camposano, Communities for a Better Environment, said he supports CA7 because he opposes homes being taken.

Robert Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment, said the Livability Initiative is not an alternative to CA7. He said Caltrans, by not studying CA7, completely ignores the community process. He said there is no funding source for the Livability Initiative and it has no teeth.

Ron Miller, Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council, said his organization is in support of this project and the separated truck corridor. He said the new I-710 will serve the port and serve the neighborhoods. He said it is important to the economy of the region. He said he urged the Project Committee to create a new I-710.

Tommy Faavae, IBEW Local 11, said he invited the young people to join the IBEW's electrical apprenticeship program. He said they fully support the I-710 expansion project and want it to move forward.

Mauro Barrera, Communities for a Better Environment, urged Caltrans and Metro to study CA7.

Maria Reyes, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, expressed support for CA7 and said Metro and Caltrans had distracted the process enough.

Laura Cortez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said she supported CA7 and opposed the Livability Initiative. She said if the Project Committee supports the Livability Initiative it will go against what it has done to support CA7.

Ed Avol, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California, said studies have shown the environmental health effects of diesel emissions exposure. In terms of improving the community, he said the Project Committee should look to support the clean alternative.

Suzanne Browne, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, said they support CA7 because it is the only alternative that supports targeted hiring, and that the zero emission corridor would create jobs.

It was moved by Member Alatorre to table this item. The motion failed for lack of a second.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Drummond, to receive and file the report. Chairman DeWitt asked for a show of hands. The motion was approved by a vote of 11 to 4.

#### **E. COG Engineer's Report**

Yvette Kirrin, GCCOG COG Consultant Engineer, referred the Committee to the pending National Multi-Modal Freight Policy and Investment Act, which would provide for six years of federal funding for highway projects.

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

Member DuBois asked that information regarding AB 530 by Assemblyman Rendon which supports revitalization of the lower Los Angeles River be picked up.

Member Woods asked that a special invitation be extended to state legislators and Caltrans to attend the next Project Committee meeting.

Member Daniels said he wished the young people who come to the meeting would stick around to see the whole process and hear other information.

#### **X. Matters from the Chair**

There were no matters from the Chair.

## **XI. Adjournment**

It was the consensus of the Project Committee to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.