



Bell Gardens Local Advisory Committee

October 16, 2008
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
8327 S. Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens

MEETING SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

On Thursday, October 16, 2008, the I-710 project team met with the City of Bell Gardens Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The purpose of the meeting was to provide the LAC with a project update and to engage in a discussion on a new vision for the I-710 corridor, provide an introduction to the topic of goods movement and walk through the geometric plan analysis completed, to date, by the engineering team. The committee members' feedback and input were encouraged throughout the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were members of the I-710 project team, Devon Cichoski, Metro Constituent Program Manager, Jerry Wood representing the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, Jack Waldron, URS, Shannon Willits, URS and Pat McLaughlin, MIG.

After a round of introductions Pat McLaughlin reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. Ms. McLaughlin provided a brief summary of project progress since the LAC's last meeting in July. Jerry Wood followed up by presenting the committee members with I-710 Project Notebooks and briefly reviewing their contents. The City of Bell requested five (5) additional copies of the Project Notebook. The Gateway Cities COG will deliver the notebooks in the near future.

New I-710 Corridor Discussion

Ms. McLaughlin introduced the topic of the "New I-710 Corridor" by stating that a component of the community participation effort for the project will focus on asking the committee members to consider ways that the I-710 corridor can be enhanced, from a community design standpoint, to move beyond just being seen as a goods movement corridor. The enhancements could include creating an identity for the corridor and the



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individual communities, improving esthetics and safety elements and feature key projects that could be implemented in the near term. Many of the community design-related ideas that emerged from the Major Corridor Study can be used as a starting point for this discussion and assessed as to their current relevance in the corridor. Ms. McLaughlin mentioned that Gruen & Associates, a sub consultant to the Engineering Team, will serve as a resource to the communities to help develop and expand upon the ideas put forth. Jerry Wood said that today was just the introduction of the topic to ask the LAC to begin thinking about possible ideas. Follow up on the topic will occur over the next several months. Committee discussion related to the “New I-710” included the following points:

- The Florence interchange is obsolete; the committee is looking forward to the planned improvements at Firestone
- Potential for relocation of power lines
- Installation of low maintenance landscaping
- Electric vehicle recharging areas
- Esthetically pleasing sound walls/barriers – similar to those located on the 210 freeway near Fontana
- Designs that maximize Bell Gardens’ square footage possibly utilizing the LA River right of way
- Opportunity for some interim improvement projects to be implemented prior to I-710 mainline improvements

Goods Movement Introduction

Following the “New I-710 Corridor” discussion Jerry Wood gave a goods movement presentation which provided an overview of impacts at the regional and local level, basic terminology, baseline facts, a summary of how goods are moved, and an explanation of why goods movement is important to the I-710 EIR/EIS.

Geometric Plan Review

The goods movement presentation was followed by an overview of the geometrics plan analysis conducted on Alternative 6 (the Locally Preferred Strategy that resulted from the Major Corridor Study) concentrating on the sections of the freeway that touch on the City of Bell Gardens from Firestone Boulevard to the Atlantic/Bandini exit. Jack Waldron and Shannon Willits from URS shared the presentation. Mr. Waldron gave an overview of the Geometric analysis process and explained that what was being presented during the meeting were preliminary findings for one of the study’s six alternatives. Mr. Willits followed Mr. Waldron walking through the plan layout interchange to interchange (i.e., Firestone, Florence, proposed Slauson exit, Atlantic/Bandini) explaining the current conditions, the changes dictated by Alternate 6, the impacts related to these changes and the constraints involved (i.e., Los Angeles River and DWP overhead transmission system).

The following discussion points followed the presentation:

- Currently difficult I-710 access from Florence Avenue.

- Need to coordinate traffic lights at Eastern/Florence intersection and heading South on Eastern Avenue.
- Differing needs of the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach in terms of their need for more on-dock facilities
- Access to Hobart Yards in Vernon at Bandini
- Logistics of railyard operations
- Capacity of railyards and upcoming study results related to this topic
- Feasibility of utility relocation and consideration of alternative energy sources (i.e., solar and wind)
- Opportunities for new use of land created through freeway redesign.

CONCLUSION

Ms McLaughlin mentioned that Bell Gardens still has the opportunity to make appointments to the Subject Working Groups and that those committees would be having their first meetings in November. Ms. McLaughlin said that the Project Team would follow up with the committee in the near future and encouraged the members to contact them with any questions or input that may occur before that time.

The meeting concluded at 4:30 PM.