
MEETING SUMMARY

Commerce LAC Meeting #3

July 22, 2008

6:30PM – 8:00 PM

City Hall Emergency Operations Center
2535 Commerce Way, Commerce, California

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS: Committee members present were Councilmember Joe Aguilar, Angelo Logan, Jose Zambrano, Maria Becerra, Bob Eula and Mario Sotelo (Chair).

Also in attendance were: Alex Hamilton, City of Commerce; Linda Wright, City of Commerce and Michelle De Santiago; Assemblymember Hector De La Torre.

Members of the Project Team attending the meeting were: Garrett Damarath, Caltrans; Jason Roach, Caltrans; Jerry Wood, GCCOG; Devon Cichoski, Metro; Yesenia Arias, Arellano Associates; Kayleen Maya-Aviles, VPE, and Becky Draper, MIG.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michelle from Assemblymember Hector De La Torre's office invited the group to their upcoming Town Hall on Air Quality scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2008 at 6 pm at Bandini Elementary School. She distributed flyers and encouraged the committee to share this with interested parties.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

1. **Selection of Member(s) - Subject Working Groups for the I-710 EIR/EIS Corridor Project**

The **Committee** will consider, and take the appropriate action with respect to, the selection of member(s) to serve on any of the Subject Working Groups for the I-710 EIR/EIS Corridor Project, which includes Environmental, Transportation and Community Design/Economics, and thereafter will provide names of proposed participants to Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).



Metro



Appointments

Chair Sotelo informed the group of the following appointments:

- Councilmember Joe Aguilar was appointed to the CAC with Mario Sotelo as alternate. This will be worked by City staff through their City Administration as Joe Aguilar is also a Gateway cities representative.
- The LAC acted to designate Mario Sotelo & Bob Eula to serve on the Transportation Subject Working Group.
- The LAC acted to designate Angelo Logan & Jose Zambrano on Environmental Subject Working Group.
- The LAC acted to designate Ms. Becerra on the Community Design & Economics Subject Working Group with Mario Sotelo as an alternate.

Becky Draper explained to the committee that at this time appointments to the Subject Working Groups would be held to one appointment per LAC for each of the SWGs. She recommended that for those Subject Working Groups that the LAC named two appointments that they name one as primary representative and the second as an alternate. Ms. Draper further stated that once other LACs have made their appointments to the Subject Working Groups an assessment can then be made of any additional openings left in each of the three groups.

Bob Eula was named as primary representative to the Transportation group with Mario Sotelo as his alternate; Angelo Logan was named as primary representative to the Environmental group with Jose Zambrano as his alternate; the Community Design appointments remained as detailed above.

2. Update - Regarding the EIR/EIS I-710 Corridor Project Process

The **Committee** will receive a report on, and thereafter will consider and take the appropriate action with respect to, an update by Metro regarding the EIR/EIS I-710 Corridor Project, to include Technical and Outreach aspects.

Technical Update

Jerry Wood provided a technical update to the group framed around specific questions discussed by the LAC during their committee meeting on 7/08 and forwarded to the I-710 Project Team for response. The questions and responses follow:

Q: Where will the Aug. 13 TAC meeting be held? Where will the Aug. 21st PC meeting be held? Who can/should attend? What will be on the agendas? What is make up of TAC & PC?

A: The TAC meeting is set for Aug. 13th at 1:30 pm and PC meeting is set for Aug. 21st at 6:30 pm. These meetings will be held at the CCCOG's offices in Paramount. These are public meetings so anyone can attend. The agendas are being developed and will

be posted about a week before these meetings. The TAC is made up of the staff of the cities and communities along the I-710 corridor and the staffs of the project partner agencies mostly. The PC is made up of elected officials from the cities and communities along I-710 and the officials from the project partner agencies.

Q: Has notification of former Tier 1 & 2 Committees occurred for the I710 EIR/EIS?

A: Any former Tier 1 contacts were made through their respective cities at the request of Gateway Cities. No contacts have yet been made with former Tier 2 committee members (except for those that were on Tier 2 from the Tier 1 committees). Further appointments (and contacts with former Tier 2 members) to the CAC will be made by the PC and direction on that will come from the meeting on August 21st. The PC will appoint additional members to the CAC at that meeting (or discuss it). The CAC meeting has not been scheduled yet. The PC may direct the I-710 team to contact former Tier 2 members as part of their appointment process but it will up to them.

Committee member Eula stressed the need to reach out to the Tier 2 members to at least have them in the audience at these meetings.

Committee member Logan stated that the COG staff made a commitment to notify Tier 2 members.

Jerry responded by stating that the PC will need to appoint Tier 2 members and provide direction with respect to contacting former Tier 2 members.

Q: When will the geometrics be available from URS? What about opening ramps on Slauson, is this still being considered? The bullet "they are looking at different alternatives" what does this mean? What about Washington Blvd. ramps? The question was asked whether they would be eliminated or modified to exclude truck traffic. In addition why is Washington the dividing line between I710 & I710/I5 overlay?

A: The geometrics from URS are not yet available and the committee will be notified and supplied them in advance of a future meeting. The Slauson Ave. interchange is still being considered and examined by URS and a report will be made to the committee when that analysis is further along. Different alternatives means that the URS design team is taking a "fresh" look at the previous design and examining additional options for that design. Washington Blvd. interchange is actually part of both projects (I-710 and I-5) and is the dividing line as the redesign of the I-5/I-710 interchanges impacts the Washington Blvd. interchange (because of the new right-hand connector ramps between the two freeways). This is the logical overlap location between the two projects. The URS team is examining options to try to keep the Washington Blvd. interchange open as part of their work. Modifications, changes, etc. will all be reviewed

with the committee when that work is further along. If any of the ramps at Washington Blvd. remain open, it will not be legally possible to exclude trucks from using them.

Committee member Logan asked how the staff will respond to what the community wants with respect to re-routing truck traffic on Washington Blvd. or just expanding it to accommodate more trucks.

Jerry responded by stating that they are looking at options to keep Washington Blvd. ramps open and truck routes within the city will be up to the city.

Q: Under Next Steps reference to design concept coming to this group during the outreach process, when will this take place?

A: The timing for presentation of design reviews by URS will occur later this year. Schedule and timing cannot be determined yet.

Q: Are there any meeting schedules/locations for the CAC meetings as well as all working groups?

A: As stated previously, the CAC meeting cannot be scheduled until after the PC meeting. It will likely occur in October. Subject Working Group (SWG) meetings have not been scheduled yet but would likely be in the fall.

Q: Regarding the study area map. How were the study area boundaries determined for the blue area for I-5? Is it traffic volume/links, air quality, etc? Will the overlay area have elevated HOV lanes?

A: The study area maps were developed by the design teams to reflect the need to cover a large enough area to evaluate both the air quality and traffic impacts (generally within 1 to 2 miles of the freeway). This is based on the consultants experience with similar projects. It is not known yet whether there will be any elevated HOV lanes. Those would come out of the design reviews being done for both freeways and any concepts of that nature will be reviewed with the committee.

URS and Caltrans are moving forward with planning, geometrics in a month or two they will return with their plan of action.

Committee member Eula asked if aerial mapping was completed. Jerry responded by stating that they should be done by next month.

Committee member Eula asked what the Hybrid design was. Jerry answered by stating that it is the Locally Preferred Strategy based on the three designs presented in 2003, elements from each one were incorporated into one design resulting in the locally preferred strategy (a "hybrid" of the previous designs). He said that the LPS is the design concept that will be presented during scoping.

Outreach Update

Becky Draper from MIG provided an outreach update to the group and addressed the following:

- Fourteen LACs have been formed to date, four of them in Long Beach. The communities of Bell, Compton, Downey, and Signal Hill have yet to form LACs.
- CAC appointments have been made by most of the LAC that have formed. The first meeting of the CAC will most likely take place in September.
- Commerce was the first LAC to appoint members to the Subject Working Groups. The Outreach Team will be working with the other LACs to make appointment to these committees.
- Public scoping meetings are scheduled for September 9th at Rowan Elementary in East LA, September 10th at Progress Park in Paramount and September 11th at Cabrillo High School in Long Beach.
- The Outreach Team has been continuing work on collateral materials including finalizing the first newsletter and corridor video. It is anticipated that these materials will be ready before the public scoping meetings.
- Meeting notification: There is an on-line form on Metro's website where those interested can subscribe to receive email updates. In addition the Project Team will ensure that all LAC are well informed of upcoming meetings.
- Public Comment: After issuance of the Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent there is a period of 30 – 45 for public comments. Comments are not refused after the 45 days but the official comment period end at that time. MIG is currently developing the comment form that will be used at the public scoping meetings.

3. Update – Regarding the I-5/I-710 Interchange

The **Committee** will receive a report on, and thereafter will consider and take the appropriate action with respect to, an update by Metro regarding the I-5/I-710 Interchange, to include technical progress and schedule.

Notes:

- Garrett Damrath of Caltrans reported that, at this point, this project is running parallel with the I-710 project. They are making sure that they have collected the

existing traffic count numbers that they need and are coordinating this effort with a similar effort for the I-710 project.

- The team distributed a binder of information on the I-5 project for the committee to review and comment.
 - At this point, the most active community groups on the project are East LA and Commerce. As a result, outreach efforts are being focused in these areas at this time.
4. **Update – Regarding the Gateway Cities I-710 Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Report**

The **Committee** will receive a report on, and thereafter will consider and take the appropriate action with respect to, an update by Jerry Wood, Project Engineer for Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG), regarding the Gateway Cities I-710 Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Report.

Notes:

Air Quality Action Plan: At this point the COG has requested federal and state funding for the Action Plan. The funding is for the entire corridor. What looks promising is the Lowenthal bill. If approved it would impose a \$60 container of which \$30 would go for air quality improvements and \$30 for transportation projects. Both the I-710 and I-5 projects have air quality studies with Health Risk Assessments (HRA's) included.

Discussion took place related to the LACs notification to the City Council of their support of the plan and on the action items outlined in the plan. Commerce City staff is currently drafting a letter to the City Council from the committee to jump start some of the items in the Action Plan.

Alternative Technology: Jerry Wood said that the study of alternative technology potential will be an important part of the EIR/EIS. He shared with the LAC the Port of Long Beach's interest in looking at Maglev technology. The Port of Long Beach met with Atlanta based American Maglev developers. They are looking into a demonstration project within one year. Jim Hankla is pushing this effort forward. In addition, the Ports are working with the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) to conduct an alternative technology study. Congressman Rohrbacher is supportive of seeking alternative technology improvements at the ports and for the region.

A Port related item was the final discussion point for the evening. Specifically how the Middle Harbor EIR Project relates to the I-710 project. It was discussed that the project would add acreage to the harbor and more on-dock rail would be facilitated. It would expand the existing footprint at this area of the Port of Long Beach and it would be able to accommodate more containers, thus impacting port traffic.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

