



Huntington Park Local Advisory Committee

October 22, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
3030 E. Florence Avenue, Huntington Park

MEETING SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday, October 22, 2008, the I-710 project team met with the City of Huntington Park Local Advisory Committee (LAC). Eddie Benitez, LAC Chair, and Andy Molina were present. They are both also Planning Commissioners for the City of Huntington Park. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the committee with a project update, engage in a discussion of 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. Feedback and input, from the committee members, 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 Esmeralda Garcia, MIG.

After a round of introductions, Esmeralda Garcia reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. Ms. Garcia gave the committee a brief summary of project progress since last meetings. She also mentioned that Huntington Park still has the opportunity to make appointments to the Subject Working Groups and that those committees would be having their first meetings in November. Mr. Benitez and Mr. Molina said that for the time being, until more LAC members could be recruited, that they would consider sharing the duties of the Subject Working Group participation. Jerry Wood followed up by presenting the members with I-710 Project Notebooks and briefly reviewing their contents.



Metro



New I-710 Corridor Discussion

Ms. Garcia 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 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. Garcia 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 shared by the community. Discussion points follow:

- Job creation is a priority issue for Huntington Park and should be part of the “New I-710” Corridor discussion
- “New I-710” represents a new opportunity for partnership (i.e., organizing Planning Commissioners from all cities to interact and share priorities and ideas; Huntington Park’s Planning Commission meets the first and third Wednesday of each month)
- Creating community-specific “themes” for each of the cities along the I-710 Corridor would be an opportunity to spur economic development
- Creating and enhancing business opportunities in Huntington Park; Pacific Boulevard has been experiencing a marked decline in recent times

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 the Locally Preferred Strategy that resulted from the Major Corridor Study. Shannon Willits concentrated on the sections of the freeway that are closest to the City of Huntington Park from Firestone Boulevard to the Atlantic/Bandini exit. An overview of the Geometric analysis process was given and an explanation that what was being presented during the meeting were preliminary findings for one of the study’s six alternatives. The plan layout was presented interchange by interchange (i.e., Firestone, Florence, proposed Slauson exit, Atlantic/Bandini) explaining the refinements to the Locally Preferred Strategy, potential impacts related to these refinements and the constraints involved (i.e., Los Angeles River and DWP overhead transmission system).

Both Mr. Benitez and Mr. Molina emphasized that Huntington Park’s greatest concern relates to freeway access at Florence Boulevard but that they understand that the concern along the corridor is health and air quality.

Other Discussion

Further discussion concentrated on a means of expanding participation in the I-710 project in Huntington Park. Recommendations put forth included:

- Project Team presentations to Neighborhood Watch groups (there are three main groups) in Huntington Park
- Engaging the Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement District association and members
- Invitation to neighboring communities to attend I-710 work session in Huntington Park

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Molina said that he would follow up in the community to encourage participation in the project and to recruit additional committee members. The Project Team will follow up on the possibility of making presentations to Huntington Park's Neighborhood Watch groups. Mr. Benitez and Mr. Molina will update the I-710 Project Committee representative from Huntington Park.

The meeting concluded at 2:30 PM.