

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

**A Meeting Held at the Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, CA**

January 29, 2009

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Hurtado called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Self-Introductions

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate, Co-Chair; George Mirabal, City of Bell; Lillie Dobson, City of Compton; Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy; Anne Bayer, City of Downey; Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park; Val Lerch, City of Long Beach; Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood; Gene Daniels, City of Paramount; Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill; Pat DeChellis, County of Los Angeles; Dr. Mike Walter, Port of Long Beach; Joe Aguilar, I-5 JPA; Abdi Saghafi, Caltrans, Barbara Messina, SGVCOG; Susan Seamans, SBCCOG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens; Jim Dear, City of Carson; Hugo Argumedo, City of Commerce; Maria T. Santillan, City of Lynwood; William Davis, City of Vernon; Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, Port of Los Angeles; Diane DuBois, MTA; Rich Macias, SCAG.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill De Witt, Councilmember, South Gate; Bill Pagett, City Engineer, City of Paramount, I-710 TAC Chair; Mark Christoffels, City Engineer, City of Long Beach; Tom Modica, Manager of Government Affairs, City of Long Beach; Kerry Cartwright, Port of Los Angeles; Sue Lai, Senior Transportation Engineer, Port of Los Angeles; Mimi Gutierrez, Engineering Associate, Port of Los Angeles; Jolene Hayes, Transit Development Manager, Port of Long Beach; Samara Ashley, Director of Government Affairs, Port of Long Beach; Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director, SBCCOG; Doug Failing, District Director, Caltrans District 7; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Devon Cichoski, Communications Manager, Metro; Adrian Alvarez, Transportation Planner, Metro; Connie Turner, Region Manager, Southern California Edison; Bob Eula, City of Commerce LAC; Mario Sotelo, City of Commerce LAC; Dave Randall, Transportation Director, Montebello School District; Ed Thicksten, CCDoTT/CSULB; Ken James, CSULB; Chuck Taylor, Butterfield Communications Inc.; Bob Stiles, CEO, Citi Car Co.; Jack Waldron, URS; Dave Levinsohn, URS; Sandy Stadtfeld, URS;

Esmeralda Garcia, MIG; Pat McLaughlin, MIG; Michael Fischer, Cambridge Systematics; Rob McCann, LSA; Richard Powers, Executive Director, GCCOG; Jack Joseph, Deputy Executive Director, GCCOG; Jerry Wood, GCCOG Engineer.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Mirabal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

V. Public Comments

GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood introduced Caltrans District 7 Director Doug Failing to the Project Committee.

Bob Eula, Commerce LAC, spoke on the need to alleviate truck traffic on Washington Blvd. in the City of Commerce. He said the project map since 2004 has shown truck lanes going directly from the freeway into the rail yards and he asked whether this was still in the plan. He said that he wants the southbound connection to I-5 to be down Bandini Blvd.

Elina Green, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, expressed concern about the community participation effort. She presented the Project Committee with a series of questions regarding the strategy for outreach and the status of the development and membership of the community participation groups. She requested that agendas, notices, and minutes for the subject working groups and community advisory committees be posted on the project website. Co-Chair Hurtado asked staff to get back to Ms. Green regarding her questions.

Erika Olvera, resident of Long Beach, said that she represented many families affected by asthma. She said her family will be highly impacted by decisions coming out of this and other meetings. She asked the Project Committee to focus on cleaning the air before work on the project begins.

Elena Rodriguez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said that she was concerned that affected communities receive information about the project. She said pollution should be reduced before beginning construction. She asked that an item regarding implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Elena Ramirez, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, said that she had many questions about how noise and contamination from the freeway will be dealt with. She said she wondered how the project will help families in the area.

Martha Cota, resident of Long Beach, asked the Project Committee to listen to the community. She said that her son has asthma. She said that she had three recommendations: 1) have a better public participation process; 2) provide information on how and when she can become involved in this process; 3) organize a meeting where we can dialogue about a plan. She said the Committee should consider premature deaths that result from bad air quality.

Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, read a letter requesting support and leadership in implementing a corridor level Air Quality Action Plan. He asked that an item be placed on the next Project Committee agenda that will instruct the Gateway Cities COG to proceed with the development and implementation of the AQAP without any further delay. He provided a list of recommended early action items to advance air quality in the I-710 cities.

Sonny Roque, resident of Commerce, thanked the Project Committee for doing a good job. He said that there is very bad air quality and bumper to bumper traffic in the area of the I-5/I-710 junction and said that he hopes the Committee does the right thing to address these problems.

Miguel Ortega, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, said he urged the Committee to make the right decisions. He asked that an interpreter be present at all meetings.

Candice Kim, Coalition for Clean Air, asked the Project Committee to move forward with the Air Quality Action Plan.

Adrian Martinez, NRDC, said that he supports the letter read by Angelo Logan. He said it is very important to everyone that we stay up to date on recent science.

Bob Stiles, Citi Car Company, said that he was amazed that additional truck lanes are still being considered. He said he has proposed an automatic electric rail system that would eliminate 35% of all trucks.

Darryl Molina, Communities for a Better Environment, said that he echoes what has already been said earlier. He said the project will add a lot of pollution. He said the Committee should try to clean the air now before the project allows even more trucks to drive through.

Gabriel Santillan, resident of Huntington Park, said the area is already polluted and this project will only add to it.

Co-Chair Hurtado said that he appreciates that these organizations exist. He said he wondered why they didn't exist eight years ago when our predecessors made these decisions. He said that he and his son both have respiratory problems and that all of the things that have been talked about are the reasons that he is here. He said the elected representatives that sit on the Project Committee all come from the communities along I-710. He said that the concerns of the people that spoke are their concerns, too. He said they are always welcome to come by and express those concerns.

Member Daniels said that what the Committee is doing is to uphold the commitment to address the air quality issues before moving forward on the project.

GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers said that the vast majority of the EIR/EIS process is addressing the air quality issues. He said that the next agenda will list the plans for air quality improvement projects.

Member Aguirre said that he would like a translator at the next meeting. He requested a report on air quality on the next agenda.

Member Walter said that he wanted to reiterate that what the ports are doing to improve air quality, including the ban on pre-1989 trucks and the July 1 CARB requirement that ships convert to low sulfur fuel. He said these actions should reduce pollution at the ports by 80%. He said the ports are paying \$10 million to advance the timelines for these measures. He said it is a financial problem, but the results are significant.

VI. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Walter, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2008. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Appointment of Additional Members to the Corridor Advisory Committee

The GCCOG Executive Director reported that the Project Committee had recommended two additional appointments to the Corridor Advisory Committee—one representative of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and one community member from the San Pedro/Wilmington area. He recommended the appointment of Belinda Faustinos of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and requested that the

Project Committee hold open the San Pedro/Wilmington area representative position.

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Guerrero, to appoint Belinda Faustinos to the Corridor Advisory Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports

A. Status Report on the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS

Jack Waldron of URS provided a briefing on the status of the project. Esmeralda Garcia of MIG reported on the community participation effort. Jerry Wood, GCCOG Engineer said that the project was still on its original schedule. It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the status report. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Presentation of Initial Feasibility Study Results and Recommendations for Cargo Forecast

Dave Levinsohn of URS reviewed the studies leading to the Initial Feasibility Study (IFA) and the results of the IFA. Those results indicated that the three cargo forecasts that were analyzed in the various studies did not have an appreciable difference for transportation impacts to the I-710 Corridor. Technical Advisory Committee Chairman Bill Pagett recommended that the Project Committee concur with the TAC recommendation, as outlined in the staff report, to proceed with the High Port Cargo Growth Scenario without near-dock rail yard expansion for the reasons in the IFA and as outlined in the staff report.

Member Messina asked if it was anticipated that there would be public-private partnership funding for the project. Caltrans District Director Doug Failing responded that he does expect that.

Co-Chair Hurtado asked what the basis is for the projection of port cargo growth. Mr. Levinsohn responded that SCAG's projections were used for one piece, and that the ports are continually hiring experts to update their cargo forecasts. He said those growth forecasts have been as high as 6% a year. Mr. Failing said that, if we looked at projections made 25 years ago as to where cargo volumes would be today, they would be on the low side.

Member Aguilar asked if the Committee goes with Scenario 1 will it mean that the Commerce rail yards will grow. Michael Fischer of Cambridge

Systematics responded that rail yard facilities will be built somewhere, but we just don't know where.

It was moved by Member Walter, seconded by Member Forester, to concur with the TAC recommendation to proceed with Scenario 1, the high cargo forecast without near-dock rail yard expansion for the two ports. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Alternative Screening Methodology Overview/Approach

Dave Levinsohn of URS reviewed the approach and the criteria to be used to screen the alternatives for selection of final alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. Bill Pagett, TAC Chairman, informed the Project Committee members that the TAC had reviewed the criteria and approach and was recommending that the Project Committee concur with the TAC's recommendation to proceed with this analysis and criteria.

It was moved by Member Forester, seconded by Member Walter, to concur with the TAC recommendations for the alternatives screening methodology and approach. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Comments from Committee Members

Member Aguilar said that he was requesting on behalf of the City of Commerce that hard copies of the agendas be available to the local advisory committees.

Member Walter said that the number one goal at the ports is to reduce pollution without killing off customers and jobs. He said the ports want to go to off dock rail as soon as possible.

X. Adjournment

It was the consensus of the Project Committee to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Hurtado at 9:05 p.m.