



## Community Enhancement and Local Economy Subject Working Group Meeting #2

March 12, 2009  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments Offices  
16401 Paramount Boulevard  
Paramount, CA 90723

### MEETING SUMMARY

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#### INTRODUCTION

On Monday, March 12, 2009, the I-710 project team met with the Community Enhancement and Local Economy Subject Working Group (SWG). The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the kick-off meeting, to provide an update on the corridor project schedule, and discuss corridor aesthetics and themes. Meeting attendees included Sue Lai, Port of Los Angeles; Alina Bokde, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; and Mark Christoffels, City of Long Beach.

Also present at the meeting were members of the I-710 project team: Jack Waldron, URS; Esmeralda Garcia and Brian Wallace, MIG; Jorge Gonzalez, VPE; and Elaine Carbrey and Matthew Parrent, Gruen Associates.

After a round of introductions Esmeralda Garcia reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. Ms. Garcia gave attendees an overview of the agenda and items to be discussed throughout the meeting, along with a recap of the last meeting.

Mr. Waldron then provided an overview on the Corridor Project Schedule. The following items were discussed:

- Upcoming Schedule
- Alternatives Screening Milestone
- Improving safety, air quality and congestion



Ms. Garcia discussed the role of the SWG and the need for information exchange between the SWG and the CAC. Ms. Garcia suggested that two people from the SWG provide information to the CAC.

### **Corridor Aesthetics and Themes Discussion**

Elaine Carbrey provided an update on 3 possible themes that could be used as overarching frameworks for corridor aesthetic and design enhancements. Each major theme could have community- or site-specific enhancements that contribute to a larger design concept that is carried out along the entire corridor. The three themes presented are:

1. LA River – emphasize the proximity to and connection with the Los Angeles River. This could include emphasizing views of the river or introducing artwork or design features that echo the concept of flowing water or wildlife.
2. Eco/Technology – incorporate high-tech features, appropriate landscaping, and green features to accentuate innovation.
3. Contemporary Art – introduce high design with vertical features, modern sculptural gateway and interchange features and lighting to signify special places.

After the presentation of the three themes, the group discussed opportunities and concepts that might be possible along the I-710 corridor. Points raised are organized below based on the most relevant theme.

#### **LA River**

- Signage at LA river creating a theme on how communities connect to the river
- Signage of animals that depend on the LA river
- Educating community on the importance of the LA river
- Water elements that represent the river

#### **Eco/Technology**

- Sustainability elements – green roof or landscaped bridges
- Renewable energy – use solar panels on sound walls
- Landscaping – use a variation of native plants, including “culturally-specific” species depending on community
- Elements of change – ensure landscaping reflects seasonal change to remind drivers that a natural environment exists

#### **Contemporary Art**

- Public art
- Uniqueness of communities and connection to the corridor
- Murals to prevent tagging
- Gateway and bridge opportunities

- Directional artwork and identity
- Elements of change – use varied lighting throughout seasons to accentuate bridge supports, etc.

Other emerging themes or opportunities mentioned included:

- Importance in the preservation of vistas (e.g. San Gabriel Mountains, East LA rail yards, etc.)
- Strengthen pedestrian connections, links from Blue Line station
- Enhancements beyond concrete

## **CONCLUSION**

Ms. Garcia discussed the concept of developing guiding principles that this SWG could embrace and put forth to be considered in the EIR process. The next meeting of the Community Enhancement and Local Economy Subject Working Group will focus on developing and refining guiding principles. Also, she suggested the SWG develop new ideas for future meetings in the coming months. Future meetings will be held in the same location at the Gateway COG.

The meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.