



Corridor Connections

I-710 corridor project EIR/EIS news

MAY 2009

Community Participation in Brief

The community participation framework for the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS allows corridor communities to stay informed about the project and to provide input throughout the process. Your participation is encouraged! For more information on each of these groups, their future meeting schedules, and past meeting summaries, please visit metro.net/710eir or contact us at 213.922.4710 or 710eir@metro.net.

Local Advisory Committees (LACs)

LACs represent the perspectives of residents and business owners from each of the communities along the I-710 corridor. Since January 2009, the LACs have met up to three times to review, discuss, and give input on the following topics:

- Proposed conceptual highway designs (geometrics) for the I-710 corridor and the I-5/I-710 interchange
- Technical studies informing the screening of alternatives
- Alternatives screening methodologies and results
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendation on alternatives for study in the EIR/EIS

Subject Working Groups (SWGs)

These open participation groups delve more deeply into the specifics of transportation, community design, and the environment, and are made up of representatives from the LACs as well as other appointees with subject matter interest and expertise. Since January 2009, these groups have reviewed and discussed a variety of topics.

The Community Design & Local Economy SWG has met twice in 2009. Topics covered include:

- Corridor themes and aesthetics
- Aesthetic and enhancement principles
- Sound walls

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Alternatives Selected for Study in EIR/EIS

The I-710 Corridor Project reached an important milestone on April 30 when its Project Committee endorsed four corridor improvement alternatives for further study in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The Project Committee's action was based on the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and supported by the Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC).

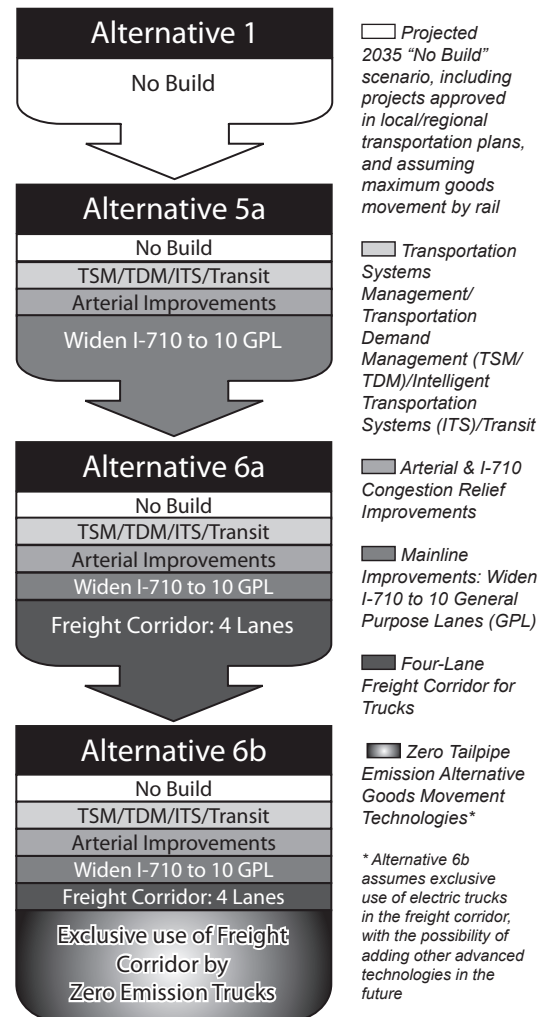
From an initial set of six alternatives, the four below were selected. These alternatives were chosen because they demonstrate the greatest potential for achieving the project's goals of improving air quality, mobility and safety in the corridor. (A description of all six initial alternatives is available online at metro.net/710eir.)

● **Alternative 1: No Build.** This alternative analyzes baseline conditions projected in the year 2035. Though it is called "No Build," this alternative does assume completion of projects previously approved in local and regional transportation plans as well as maximum goods movement by rail.

● **Alternative 5a: Freeway Widening up to 10 General Purpose (GP) Lanes.** The key

feature of this alternative is the widening of the I-710 freeway to 10 general purpose lanes. General purpose lanes are freeway lanes that may be used by any driver. This alternative includes the assumptions of the "No Build" alternative, including pre-approved transportation projects and maximum goods movement by rail. It also includes the

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Community Participation in Brief (cont.)

The Transportation & Transit SWG has met twice in 2009. Topics covered include:

- Zero tailpipe emission goods movement technologies
- Studies including Multimodal Review, Railroad Goods Movement, and Initial Feasibility Analysis
- Alternatives screening methodology and results

The Environmental SWG has met four times in 2009. Topics covered include:

- Zero tailpipe emission goods movement technologies
- Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment (AQ/HRA) introduction, updates, and protocol
- Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)
- EIR/EIS topic areas and supporting studies

Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC is comprised of the Chairs of each LAC and the TAC, and other appointees representing corridor-wide interests. The CAC has met each month since January 2009 to review topics discussed at all LAC, SWG, and TAC meetings. Since January, the CAC has taken the following actions:

- Recommendation of four alternatives for study in the EIR/EIS (see feature article)
- Approval of conceptual highway designs (geometrics) pending resolution of community concerns

Upcoming Meetings

- ▶ **Environmental SWG Meeting**
June 4, Commerce City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- ▶ **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**
June 17, Gateway Cities COG, 1:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting**
June 18, Progress Park, 6:00 p.m.

Alternatives Selected for Study (cont.)

following elements: transportation systems and transportation demand management (TSM/TDM), intelligent transportation systems (ITS), and improvements to arterial roadways.

- **Alternative 6a: 10 GP Lanes plus a Four-Lane Freight Corridor.** This alternative is based on the Locally Preferred Strategy (LPS) that emerged from the I-710 Major Corridor Study in 2004. It includes all elements of 5a and also features a four-lane freight movement corridor to be used by conventional trucks.
- **Alternative 6b: 10 GP Lanes plus a Zero Tailpipe Emissions Freight Corridor.** This alternative is based on the LPS but assumes the use of Zero Emission Trucks, a technology that emerged as a viable option after the LPS was developed. Advanced goods movement technologies, such as Zero Emission Trucks, were studied as a standalone alternative in the initial screening. Alone, they did not meet the project's mobility goals, but together with the LPS, they allow the project to effectively address air quality and mobility. This alternative also preserves that possibility of adding an Automated Fixed Guideway System (or other technology as yet to be developed) to the freight corridor in future years.

The Project Committee's endorsement of these four alternatives allows for the commencement of in-depth environmental review and engineering, the building blocks of the EIR/EIS. A Draft EIR/EIS is expected to be circulated for public review in late summer 2010.

The EIR/EIS will assess the impact of these four alternatives on the physical, biological and human environment in the corridor. Twenty-five technical studies, which began this spring, will inform the EIR/EIS. These studies, including air quality, water quality, noise, community impact, environmental justice and others, address the community concerns identified in the Major Corridor Study.

Towards the end of 2009, the project team will begin developing measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts identified in the studies. There will be ongoing opportunities for stakeholders in the corridor communities to learn about preliminary findings of the various environmental studies and provide input on proposed mitigation measures.

For more information about the project, its history, the community participation framework, public meeting schedules, and other opportunities for involvement, please visit metro.net/710eir or contact us at 213.922.4710 or 710eir@metro.net.



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