



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
**75 Hawthorne Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

February 10, 2023

**Subject:** EPA Comments on the Revised Draft – Initial List of Projects & Programs for the 710/Long Beach-East Los Angeles Corridor

Dear L.A. Metro and 710/LB-ELA Corridor Project Team:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed Revised Draft – Initial List of Projects & Programs for the 710/Long Beach-East Los Angeles Corridor Visioning. Thank you for providing an overview of the Revised List on February 9<sup>th</sup> during the Lunch and Learn Session. We are inspired by the stakeholder input and coordination thus far and the initial list includes many great projects advancing the goals and values of the Task Force. Per your request for feedback regarding the proposed project list compiled to date, we offer the following reflections at this time.

**Additional Detail Needed to Understand the Projects/Programs**

Many projects on the list require additional details and description (as well as an understanding of the potential adverse environmental impacts that may result) prior to seeking stakeholder input. Specifically, goods movement and freeway and rail expansions/alterations, and more complex projects on the list, have the potential to require environmental analysis, identification of mitigation, and project-level transportation conformity determinations and may result in adverse impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns, so it would be important to better understand what exactly is being suggested as a Vision Project/Program.

**Consider Not Requiring a Yes/No Vote at This Time**

It is not clear what a vote of yes or no moving forward would mean at this point in time, given that there is not yet enough detail to understand all of the projects identified. EPA recommends that Metro continue to accept input to develop a robust set of criteria with which to assess the initial list of projects and ultimately categorize into a set of “buckets” for future action or funding. This would help all stakeholders learn what benefits, and challenges, each project/program has as well as where each project may “fit” in terms of implementation timeline. Perhaps getting a feel for how stakeholders view each project may make sense once there is more information to inform a vote, or perhaps there may be other ways to assess support for projects. If Metro proceeds with a Yes/No vote, we encourage you to clearly explain what that means, and doesn’t mean, at this time.

**Phased Implementation**

Please consider identifying a subset of the proposed projects/programs that would provide community safety enhancements and/or benefits and are “ready to proceed” without further analysis or approvals/permits as well as those that would require minor, less complex approvals. Projects/programs that have already received required clearances could be identified for immediate funding needs and

projects/programs requiring less complex approval and analysis steps could then be identified as a “first phase” and possibly analyzed collectively for efficiency.

### **710 Expansion/Segmentation**

The following projects appear to be individual components of the 710 Corridor Expansion Project that was halted and ultimately re-imagined as the current effort to consider non-capacity building enhancements along the corridor. It may cause confusion if each of these projects have not yet demonstrated independent utility and logical termini, as it may appear that the project has been segmented. In addition, the need for project level transportation conformity would need to be assessed. EPA recommends more information and transparency to understand the strategy for addressing interchange improvements, auxiliary lanes, and truck bypass lanes moving forward.

- I-710/Willow Interchange Improvements
- I-710/Del Amo Interchange Improvements
- I-710/Long Beach Blvd. Interchange Improvements
- I-710/Alondra Interchange Improvements & Modification of SB I-710 to SR-91 Connectors
- I-710/Imperial Interchange Improvements
- I-710/Firestone Interchange Improvements
- I-710/Florence Interchange Improvements
- I-710 Auxiliary Lanes (Willow to Wardlow)
- I-710 / I-405 Connector Project Improvements
- I-710/I-105 Connector Project Improvements
- I-710 Auxiliary Lanes (Del Amo Boulevard to Long Beach Boulevard)
- I-710/Anaheim Interchange Improvement
- I-710/PCH Interchange Improvement
- I-710/Wardlow Interchange Improvement
- I-710 Truck Bypass Lanes

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Initial list of projects. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 947-4161, or contact Morgan Capilla at (415) 972-3504.

Sincerely,

Connell Dunning  
Environmental Review Branch