



Corridor Connections

I-710 corridor project EIR/EIS news

JANUARY 2010

Community Participation in Brief

The community participation framework for the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS encourages corridor communities to stay informed about the project and to provide input throughout the process. Your participation is encouraged! For more information, please visit metro.net/710eir or contact Devon Cichoski, Metro Constituent Program Manager, at 213.922.4710 or 710eir@metro.net.

Local Advisory Committees (LACs)

LACs represent the perspectives of residents and business owners from communities along the I-710 corridor. LACs met in October and November of 2009 to review and discuss the following topics: *

- Environmental Studies
- Community Profiles
- Freeway Geometric Design of I-710 Improvement Alternatives
- Early Action Projects

* See feature article for more detail on LAC activity

Subject Working Groups (SWGs)

These open participation groups delve more deeply into transportation, community design, and environmental issues, and are made up of representatives from the LACs as well as other appointees with subject matter interest and expertise.

Environmental SWG

The ESWG met in October 2009 to finalize their recommendations related to:

- Air Quality Significance Thresholds
- Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment of Impacts of Freeway Construction
- Near-Source Modeling of projected Freeway Air Emissions

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An Active End-of-Year for the Local Advisory Committees

The last quarter of 2009 was a productive one for the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS Local Advisory Committees (LACs). LACs play an important role in the process and represent many of the cities and unincorporated county areas along the I-710 corridor. Members, who are appointed by their respective City Council or Los Angeles County Supervisor, offer their perspectives as residents and business owners of their respective communities.

The project's technical progress is strengthened by feedback from local communities, and LAC participation has been an invaluable source of community input to the technical proceedings of the project.

In a round of LAC meetings that began with Commerce in late October and concluded with Carson in November, each LAC reviewed their respective Community Profiles, commented on their local sets of refined highway designs (geometrics), and shared ideas for potential Early Action Projects in their communities.

Community Profiles: Community Profiles are an essential component of the Community Impact Assessment (CIA), which is one of the environmental studies that supports the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. Each Community Profile includes information about the community's history, demographics and community facilities. Community Profiles also summarize each community's project-related issues of concern. LACs reviewed their respective Community Profiles and provided feedback to the environmental team.

Geometrics: In early 2009, LACs were invited to review and provide input on the first set of highway geometric designs—the preliminary designs for the I-710 freeway improvement alternatives. The engineering team worked over the summer to incorporate the first round of LAC comments and presented the refined geometric designs to the LACs in this recent round of meetings. Overall, LACs were pleased with the way the refined geometrics addressed their original comments. In addition to LAC and City feedback, the traffic projections are being used to revise the project's refined geometrics. The environmental benefits and impacts of the final geometrics will be studied in the EIR/EIS.

Early Action Projects: Through Measure R, the half-cent sales tax approved by Los Angeles County voters in November 2008, Metro has secured approximately \$590 million for implementing Early Action Projects in the I-710 corridor. Early Action Projects are improvements that can be carried out before the larger I-710 Corridor Project is built (if a build alternative is selected via the environmental process).



The Carson LAC reviews local geometric plans

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I-710 corridor project EIR/EIS news (continued)

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Community Participation in Brief (cont.)

Transportation & Transit SWG

The TSWG met in October 2009 to hear presentations on:

- How traffic modeling informs highway design
- Updated Port cargo forecasts
- Providing power supply for proposed zero-emissions goods movement technologies

Community Design & Local Economy SWG

The CSWG met in November 2009 to review and discuss:

- Draft guiding principles for design elements in the corridor
- Key views for the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) of project alternatives

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 monthly since September 2009 to review topics discussed at LAC, SWG, and TAC meetings. CAC highlights include:

- Made recommendations to the Project Committee related to significance thresholds, construction impacts, near-source modeling, and health impact assessment.*
- Heard presentations on traffic forecasting, Visual Impact Assessment, water-related studies, and utilities impacts.

*See callout box on Community Recommendations

Upcoming Meetings

- ▶ **Environmental SWG**
Feb. 11, Dominguez Community Ctr., Carson
6:00 p.m.
- ▶ **Transportation SWG**
Feb. 24, Gateway Cities COG, 6:00 p.m.
- ▶ **Community Design & Local Economy SWG**
Mar. 11, Gateway Cities COG, 3:00 p.m.

Active Local Advisory Committees (cont.)

Examples of potential projects include soundwalls to reduce noise impacts or ramp modifications to improve safety and alleviate congestion. Early Action Projects must satisfy certain criteria, such as providing benefit when considered by themselves (independent of the larger I-710 Corridor Project). Early Action Projects also must not bias the selection of a preferred alternative in the EIR/EIS process. LACs have been asked for their help in identifying potential Early Action Projects in their communities, and can continue to submit project ideas in 2010.

For more information, please visit metro.net/710eir or contact us at 213.922.4710 or 710eir@metro.net.

Update on Advisory Committee Recommendations

On October 29, 2009, the I-710 Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) presented recommendations to the Project Committee (PC) related to four topic areas. Below is a summary of outcomes that followed from the CAC's recommendations.

Significance Thresholds: The PC concurred with the CAC's recommendation to use the Southern California Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) significance thresholds in the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment (AQ/HRA) for the I-710 EIR/EIS. The project's technical consultants are moving forward with the AQ/HRA and will use SCAQMD's thresholds in evaluating the significance of air quality impacts in the EIR/EIS.

Construction Impacts: The CAC recommended that the health risk assessment for the project address construction-related air quality impacts based on a project phasing plan. Several analytical tools, including a construction staging and phasing plan, are necessary to assess project-specific construction impacts to the level of detail that the CAC has recommended. The project's engineering team is working to develop a construction staging plan, which will help to inform the eventual phasing plan. The PC will revisit the recommendations related to construction impacts at their January 2010 meeting, when this staging information becomes available.

Near-Source Modeling: The CAC recommended that the I-710 AQ/HRA include near-source modeling, the quantification of the projected air quality-related health impacts of each of the alternatives on those situated closest to the freeway. Due to the technical complexity of the issue, the PC determined that more information and discussion was needed and will revisit this topic at their January 2010 meeting.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA): The CAC recommended that the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS include a Health Impact Assessment, a stand-alone study of a project's various effects on public health. Many of the components of an HIA are already addressed as part of the technical studies that support the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. The Project Team is working with a sub-group of the Environmental Subject Working Group (ESWG) to determine how the I-710 Corridor Project studies along with the Air Quality Action Plan that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments is undertaking can satisfy all of the components of a comprehensive HIA.



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