



Corridor Connections

I-710 corridor project EIR/EIS news

FALL 2012

Community Participation in Brief

Alternatives aimed at improving the I-710 Freeway are presented in the Draft EIR/EIS in part from the strong commitment of community advisory groups to address each neighborhood's needs and concerns. For more information, please visit metro.net/710 or contact Danielle Valentino, Community Relations Manager, at 213.922.7448 or valentinod@metro.net or Ernesto Chaves, Project Manager, at 213.922.7343 or chavese@metro.net. You can also leave a message on the project hotline at (213) 922-4710.

Local Advisory Committees (LACs)

LAC members represent perspectives of local resident and business owners of each community along the corridor. These committees have met throughout the project to discuss:

- Freeway design of I-710 improvement alternatives
- Community profiles
- Early Action Projects

Subject Working Groups (SWGs)

Comprised of LAC representatives and appointees with specific expertise, these open participation groups explored transportation, community, design, and environmental issues in greater detail.

Environmental SWG

The ESWG convened more than a dozen times over two years to discuss:

- Air Quality Analysis Methodology
- Zero Emission Air Quality Analysis Methodology
- Health, air quality, and watershed issues

Transportation & Transit SWG

The TSWG met consistently for over two years to hear presentations on:

- Traffic Analysis Methodology
- Zero emission goods movement vehicles

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Draft EIR/EIS Review Period Extended

Public welcome to submit comments through September 28, 2012

After years of rigorous technical analyses, public meetings, and consistent collaboration with key corridor stakeholder groups, the Draft EIR/EIS for the I-710 Corridor Project was released for public review and comment on June 29, 2012.

The Draft EIR/EIS addresses federal and state requirements for new construction by looking at the potential impacts of different highway modernization alternatives on the physical, biological, and human environment throughout the corridor. Air quality, noise, hydrology, hazardous waste, energy usage, utilities, natural resources, and cultural resources are just some of the topics covered at length in the Draft EIR/EIS. Interested stakeholders may also review each of the supporting technical studies which have also been made available to the public.

Caltrans, in close coordination with the various project partner agencies, made the decision to extend the Draft EIR/EIS's 60-day public review period due to public requests. The public now has an additional 30 days to review the Draft EIR/EIS and provide comment by September 28, 2012.

In addition to extending the review period, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments worked to ensure that different communities where English may not be a first language could study the findings and learn how to submit a public comment. The Executive Summary, a user-friendly overview of the Draft EIR/EIS's main findings, was translated into Spanish, Khmer, Korean,



Vietnamese, and Tagalog. The project team made these translated Executive Summaries available at each of the public hearings and study sessions, and they are also accessible on Metro's I-710 project website: www.metro.net/710.

Out in the community:

Following the release of the Draft EIR/EIS, the project team held over two dozen different community information meetings and briefings, three topic specific study sessions, and three public hearings at various locations along the corridor. Three study sessions at Progress Park in Paramount (July 19, August 2, and August 16) provided the public an opportunity to review different components of the Draft EIR/EIS and ask questions directly to representatives from the project team. Study session #1 focused on project design, aesthetics, and traffic; session #2

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

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Community Participation in Brief

(cont.)

- Traffic Operational Analyses key findings

Community Design & Local Economy SWG

The CSWG met frequently for more than two years to review and discuss:

- Visual Impact Assessment key findings
- Cultural Resource Studies
- Elements for the Urban Design and Aesthetics Toolbox Report

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC consists of staff members from each of the corridor communities, the county, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, MTA, Caltrans and SCAG, plus staff from the California Highway Patrol, Federal Highway Administration, Southern California Edison, LADWP and South Coast Air Quality Management District. The TAC meets monthly to receive project updates, make recommendations, and provide feedback to the project team.

Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC is made up of the Chairs of each LAC and the TAC, as well as other appointees representing corridor-wide interests. The CAC's monthly meetings feature reviews of topics discussed at LAC, SWG, and TAC meetings. Subjects covered include:

- Technical Studies Methodology
- Draft EIR/EIS Key Findings
- LAC comments on geometrics
- Public outreach approach

Upcoming Meetings

At the time of printing, the following meetings have been confirmed. Please check www.metro.net/710 for future meetings. All committee meetings are open to the public.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- ▶ September 19, 2012, 1:30 pm
Gateway Cities COG Offices, Paramount CA

Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC)

- ▶ September 20, 2012, 6:00 pm
Progress Park, Paramount CA

Draft EIR/EIS Review Period Extended (cont.)

focused on air quality; and session #3 centered on community impacts.

Attracting hundreds of residents and the attention of local news stations, the three public hearings in Paramount, Long Beach, and Commerce (August 7-9) served as forums to learn more about the project and submit official comments on the Draft EIR/EIS. Attendees could submit comments in three different ways: verbally during the public comment portion of the hearing, verbally with a court reporter for those opting not to speak during the formal public comment portion of the hearing, and in writing via comment card. Ron Kosinski, Caltrans Deputy District Director for Environmental Planning, was impressed by the level of participation at the Public Hearings: "We are getting valuable insights from the community and I anticipate that meaningful refinements will be made to the project, based upon these comments."

Spanish simultaneous translation was available at both the study sessions and public hearings. Simultaneous translation in American Sign Language was available at all three public hearings and simultaneous translation in Khmer was available at the public hearing in Long Beach.

Beyond the study sessions and public hearings, staff also gave a number of informational briefings to any requesting community group along the I-710 corridor. These informal meetings provided community members with a project overview, highlights from the Draft EIR/EIS, an overview of their local impacts, and guidance on the comment submittal process.

The next milestone in the project is to identify a preferred alternative that will become the basis for the Final EIR/EIS. The project team will continue to work with the corridor community stakeholders through the Community Participation Framework Committees to gather feedback on a preferred alternative. Please visit the project website to learn about future meetings.

Want to submit a comment before September 28th?

- Fill out a comment form at <http://www.mbimedia.com/I-710> OR
- Mail a comment to Ron Kosinski, Caltrans District 7, Division of Environmental Planning, 100 South Main Street, MS 16A, Los Angeles, CA 90012

All comments collected from June 29, 2012 to September 28, 2012 will be part of the public record and responded to in the Final EIR/EIS, which is currently scheduled for release in 2013.

