



# Corridor Connections

I-710 corridor project EIR/EIS news

SEPTEMBER 2009

## 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](http://metro.net/710eir) or contact us at 213.922.4710 or [710eir@metro.net](mailto:710eir@metro.net).

### Local Advisory Committees (LACs)

LACs represent the perspectives of residents and business owners from communities along the I-710 corridor. The LACs have taken a summer recess and will resume meeting in the fall to discuss:

- Environmental studies overview and purpose
- Refinements to proposed freeway designs (geometrics)
- Local priorities for potential mitigation measures
- Community Profile section of the Community Impact Assessment (CIA)

### Subject Working Groups (SWGs)

These open participation groups delve more deeply into environmental, transportation, and community design 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 has met three times since May 2009, to review and discuss the following topics:\*

- Community Impact Assessment (CIA)
- Comparison of topics that will be addressed in the I-710 EIR/EIS and those proposed to be addressed in a Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Environmental Justice
- Elements of the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment (AQ/HRA) Methodology

\* See feature article for more detail on ESWG activity

#### Transportation & Transit SWG

The TSWG has met once since May 2009 to review and discuss the following topics:

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## Community Participation Groups Focus on Air Quality and Public Health

The I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS relies on public participation to ensure that project outcomes align with local community values and priorities. The goals outlined in the project Purpose and Need Statement are based on the outcomes of the Major Corridor Study, which engaged community members to identify key priorities for the I-710 corridor.

The project goals, as outlined in the Purpose and Need Statement, are to:

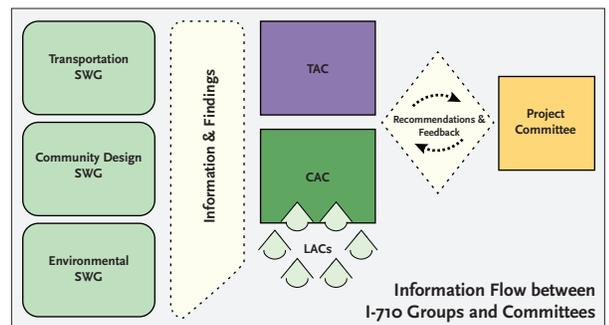
- **Improve air quality and public health**
- **Improve traffic safety**
- **Address freeway design deficiencies**
- **Address projected growth in traffic volumes**
- **Address projected growth in population, employment, and economic activities related to goods movement**

The I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS will evaluate three project alternatives against two baseline scenarios (2008 existing conditions and a projected 2035 “No Build” scenario) to determine each alternative’s ability to meet the goals listed above. The draft environmental document is expected to be completed in the fall of 2010 and the final EIR/EIS in the fall of 2011.

As air quality and its effect on public health are the top issues of concern among the corridor communities, Caltrans District 7 Deputy Director, Ron Kosinski, has stated that one of the critical factors determining whether the project is built is its ability to improve air quality. To support the project goal of improving air quality and public health, the Environmental Subject Working Group (ESWG) has focused on these priority issues.

Subject Working Groups (SWGs) are a key component of the I-710 community participation framework.

While Local Advisory Committees (LACs) discuss project-related issues of relevance to their respective communities, the three SWGs—made up of rep-



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## Community Participation in Brief

(cont.)

- Alternative Goods Movement Technology
- Rail Yard Gate Survey
- Traffic forecasting

### Community Design & Local Economy SWG

- Summer Recess

### 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 twice since May 2009 to review topics discussed at LAC, SWG, and TAC meetings. The CAC recorded the following recommendations at their June 18 meeting:

- Adopt SCAQMD's air quality significance thresholds for the evaluation of alternatives in the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS.
- Hear other expert opinions (such as AQMD's) regarding the use of local or regional air quality significance thresholds.
- Consider locating air quality monitoring stations at schools.
- Fund an effort to implement HIA tools and methodologies, specifically the "pathways to health outcomes."
- Consider the most current and up-to-date studies in the EIR/EIS

## Upcoming Meetings

- ▶ **Environmental SWG Meeting**  
Sept. 14, Gateway Cities COG, 6:00 p.m.
- ▶ **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Sept. 16, Gateway Cities COG, 1:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Sept. 17, Progress Park, 6:00 p.m.

## Focus on Air Quality and Public Health (cont.)

representatives from the LACs as well as other stakeholders representing corridor-wide interests—delve more deeply into issues related to the environment, transportation, and community enhancement. SWGs present information and key findings to the Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Based on these findings, the advisory committees can make recommendations to the Project Committee, which advises the funding partner agencies on project decisions.

Over the course of three meetings this summer, the ESWG has explored the links between air quality and public health outcomes. The group has also discussed the methodology for various environmental studies that will be included in the EIR/EIS, including the Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment (AQ/HRA), the Community Impact Assessment (CIA), and the Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis. Based on these discussions, the ESWG has provided the following information to the Project Team and the CAC:

- *A set of recommended changes to the AQ/HRA methodology*
- *Presentations on current public health conditions in the I-710 Corridor and potential health impact assessment (HIA) tools*
- *A list of current peer-reviewed studies to be considered in the environmental analysis that informs the EIR/EIS, linking public health outcomes to the built environment*
- *A list of elements requested to be studied in Environmental Justice Analysis*

The following actions will be taken based on the ESWG's input, while some of the above items are still under consideration:

- *Include a qualitative assessment of ultrafine particulates in the AQ/HRA*
- *Include a section on public health impacts in each technical study related to a topic that affects public health*
- *Incorporate findings from relevant submitted studies into the establishment of baseline conditions and development of mitigation measures*
- *Include a demographic group for children under 5 years of age in the Environmental Justice Analysis to gauge effect on the most vulnerable population*

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