

**Gateway Cities COG I-710 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Summary of Meeting No. 2 – August 16, 2021**

Committee Member Attendees:

Ali Saleh (Bell)
Maria Pulido (Bell Gardens)
Oralia Rebollo (Commerce)
Elizabeth Alcantar (Cudahy)
Kimberly Ortega (LA County, District 1)
Gabriela Cid (LA County, District 2)
Jamie Hwang (LA County, District 4)
Suely Saro (Long Beach)
Marisela Santana (Lynwood)
Heber Marquez (Maywood)
Sharon Weissman (POLB)
Maria Davila (South Gate)

1. Committee Administrative Updates

Chair Elizabeth Alcantar provided a recap of the actions first of the First Meeting of the I-710 Ad Hoc Committee of August 2, 2021.

- Make the Ad Hoc Committee meetings visible to the public through the virtual meeting platform so that the public can observe the workings of the Committee.
- Notification of any interested members of the public will occur through the individual Ad Hoc Committee members.
- Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director, will provide regular, monthly status reports on the Ad Hoc Committee's activities to the COG Board. It will be a standing agenda item at the monthly COG Board Meetings. The public will be able to make their public comments at the COG Board Meetings, which is a Brown Act public body.
- Certain Ad Hoc Committee meetings will include the opportunity for public comment. Each of these meetings will be determined on a case by case basis at the prior meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee.
- The Committee agreed that they would like to accomplish both guiding principles and recommended early action programs/projects for the I-710 Corridor.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will follow no set schedule as meeting frequency will be determined based on the topics and work activities of the Committee. Nancy Pfeffer ascertained that the Committee Members were generally available the first and third Monday of each month, from 5 to 7 PM.

2. Update on I-710 Related Letters

Nancy Pfeffer, Gateway Cities COG Executive Director, provided a status update on two letters prepared by the COG following direction provided by the Board at the July 7, 2021 meeting. The first letter refers to the process by which Metro and Caltrans will work together to develop new principles for highway project development. This letter was sent last week to both agency directors specifically requesting the Gateway Cities jurisdictions have a role in this process of developing principles. The second letter is a joint letter from the COG and Metro to state agencies, asking for their collaboration in directing state funds to a clean truck program on the I-710 Corridor. This letter has been prepared and is currently with the Metro CEO's office. In her remarks, Executive Director Pfeffer also provided a correction regarding the possible use of the Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan travel demand forecast model, clarifying that an update of this model cannot be accomplished prior to the 6-month term of the committee. However, she explained other modeling tools are available to provide this information to the Committee.

3. Background Presentation on the Transportation Project Development Process

This presentation by Julie Rush of AECOM included five, real world, project profiles, each located within the boundaries of the Gateway Cities COG. These profiles demonstrated the five steps that comprise the project development process: planning, environmental, design, right-of-way acquisition (if applicable), and construction. The timeframe for the project development process varies based on the type, size, and complexity of the project. Ms. Rush also provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of various transportation agencies and local jurisdictions with regard to project development. The presentation illuminated the importance of securing funding for timely implementation and the criticality of advocacy by stakeholder partners throughout every phase of project development.

4. Background Presentation on the “Early Action” Projects Discussed to Date

Ernesto Chaves of LA Metro provided a presentation based on potential early action projects that have been suggested to date per the direction of LA Metro Board Motions 5.1/5.2 (March 2018.) His presentation provided an overview of an Early Action Program for the I-710 Corridor structured around a subset of transportation improvements drawn from the full Corridor studies that deliver the greatest benefits for improving safety, mobility, and air quality with minimal or no property impacts. It also included an initiative to form a locally targeted hiring plan. It was noted that Motions 5.1/5.2 assumed that any improvements identified through the Early Action Plan would have been environmentally cleared through the I-710 EIR/EIS. Mr. Chaves explained there are options for some of these projects to move forward with individual environmental clearance without the I-710 EIR/EIS – especially those projects not directly tied to the previous design of the I-710 Freeway mainline.

The range of recommended projects included: targeted freeway improvements such as interchange redesigns without mainline capacity enhancements; arterial street improvements; intelligent transportation systems, such as the Integrated Corridor Management Project; pedestrian/bicycle-only crossings; the I-710 Clean Truck Program; retrofit soundwalls; and the I-710 Community Health and Benefits Program. The presentation also included I-710 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) draft recommendations, making clear that these recommendations were only discussed by the TAC and have not yet been approved. And, with the exception of the Integrated Corridor Management Project, these projects currently have no identified pathway to implementation as they are not yet environmentally cleared.

The presentation closed with these proposed next steps that will involve re-envisioning I-710 Corridor, including consideration of an Early Action Program:

- Re-engaging stakeholders
- Review and confirm the purpose and need
- Develop multimodal strategies
- Identify and prioritize projects and programs to meet the needs of stakeholders and corridor users
- Create an investment plan

5. Informational Presentation on Metro's I-710 South Corridor Task Force

Metro's Michael Cano and KeAndra Cylear Dodds co-presented on the agency's executive management's initiative to form an I-710 South Corridor Task Force. Issues related to equity and air quality were cited as foundational for the Task Force that will be charged with considering these vital topics:

- Review and confirm the purpose and need of improvement to the I-710 Corridor between the San Pedro bay Ports and State Route 60
- Develop multimodal strategies to meet the purpose and need in alignment with the existing regional and state policy framework
- Identify prioritized array of projects
- Create a prioritized investment plan to implement projects and programs that leverage local (Measure R/M) funding and provide benefit to local communities and the region at-large

Metro and Caltrans are seeking to re-engage stakeholders with broad representation on this Task Force. KeAndra Cylear Dodds emphasized that equity analyses can be expected to provide guidelines for priority setting and decision making. Mr. Cano confirmed that Metro will be seeking representation of the COG's I-710 Corridor Ad Hoc Committee on the Task Force and, in fact, the COG Ad Hoc Committee should be considered a de facto subcommittee to the Task Force.

6. Discussion by the Committee

The Committee discussed how they will coordinate and correlate actions with the Metro I-710 South Task Force. Other comments and questions addressed: the Community Health Benefits Program and what boundaries would determine eligibility for participation; the importance of equity in future decision-making; and the necessity for the Committee to understand the impacts presented in the I-710 EIR/EIS.

7. Recap & Discussion of Next Meeting

The substance, content, and date for the next Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was briefly discussed. By consensus, the committee set August 30, 2021 as the next Committee meeting date where five Community Based Organizations (CBOs) actively engaged in advocacy in the Gateway Cities will be invited to make presentations to the Committee. Each organization will have a set time allotment for their presentation, which will leave sufficient time for questions and answers by the Committee.

The Committee recommended invitations be extended to the following five organizations:

- Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice (C.E.H.A.J.)
- Communities for a Better Environment
- East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Southeast Los Angeles Collaborative (SELA Collaborative)