



Date: August 29, 2017
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.C.*
From: *CAB* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: **710 Freeway Expansion – Current Project Status**

Background

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is in the preliminary design process for expansion of the 710 Freeway from the Long Beach south terminus, north to the 60 Freeway. The project is currently in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) phase and input from the public is being sought. The comment period started July 21, 2017, and will continue until September 21, 2017, unless extended by Metro.

The EIR presents three final alternatives:

- **Alternative 1:** Make no improvements - the EIR considers what would occur if the project does not move forward.
- **Alternative 5C:** Enhances 710 Freeway capacity by adding one general purpose lane in both directions. (Estimate of \$6 Billion)
- **Alternative 7:** Enhances 710 Freeway capacity by adding separate freight corridor in both directions, moving commercial trucks traveling from the ports out of the general-purpose lane. (Estimate of \$10 Billion)

Comments can be submitted in writing online (www.metro.net/projects/i-710-corridor-project/), or in person at any of the three scheduled public meetings. The next meeting will be held in Long Beach at the Cesar Chavez Park Community Center on August 31st, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Metro has performed extensive outreach to residents and businesses along the corridor, including notifications of public input opportunities.

Metro staff would like to finalize the EIR by the end of 2018. While the project is not yet fully funded, Metro staff have indicated there may be an opportunity to move early-action projects forward upon approval of the EIR.

City Response

Staff have been working closely with the Metro team to ensure City priorities are addressed in the proposed project. These include:

- **Multi-Services Center (MSC):** The City provides homeless services at its facility located at 1301 W. 12th Street. Alternative 7 would require the demolition of this

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facility. Staff are working to ensure that, if Alternative 7 moves forward, the project includes a budget allocation to relocate the MSC.

- **Diverging Diamonds:** The 710 Project is studying options to install diverging diamond intersections at key 710 crossings (Pacific Coast Highway and Willow). While these layouts can provide for more efficient traffic flow, staff has expressed concerns about potential impacts to pedestrians and cyclists trying to cross over the freeway. One potential solution to address safety is having separated pedestrian bridges between intersections.
- **9th Street and 10th Street 710 Ramp Closures:** Alternatives 5C and 7 will require the removal of access ramps for 9th and 10th Street connections to the Shoemaker Bridge. To avoid potential traffic impacts to the adjacent Wilmore neighborhood, staff is recommending traffic calming measures focused on cut-through traffic.
- Staff are also recommending all interchanges be increased in width to allow for better freeway ingress and egress.

City staff and elected officials participate on committees to provide input to the 710 Project, including:

- The Local Advisory Committee provides additional input on the 710 Project. This committee (the City's 710 Committee) includes representation by Councilmembers Uranga, Austin, and Richardson. A meeting is being scheduled for early September to receive a project update.
- The Regional 710 Project Committee includes elected officials from cities along the corridor and is co-chaired by Councilmember Lena Gonzalez.

Both committees are advisory in capacity and will have the opportunity to provide input and recommendations on the project to the Executive Committee after the public comment period has ended. The Executive Committee, chaired by Mayor Robert Garcia, will make a recommendation to the Metro Board of Directors.

Public Works staff will be present at Cesar Chavez Park for the 710 Project Public Meeting scheduled for August 31st. A consultant team of CEQA and transportation experts (cost reimbursed from Metro) will assist the City with the technical review of the EIR. Input from the committees, City staff, and technical review will be compiled and submitted as a coordinated City response before the deadline of the comment period.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Sean Crumby, City Engineer, at (562) 570-6695.

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