



Memorandum
City of Long Beach

Office of Councilmember Steven Neal
Councilmember, 9th District

Date: July 24, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District *SN*
Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District *RG*
Councilmember James Johnson, Seventh District *JJ*

Subject: I-710 Project Draft Environmental Impact Report Support

Recommendation:

Request the City Manager to work with the City Attorney to draft a comment letter to the recently released I-710 project Draft Environmental Impact Report expressing support for the alternative with the least immediate impact to the I-710 study area in Long Beach, and to explore various mitigation options that serve and improve the immediate community, such as local hiring preferences, increased green space and aesthetics, as well as traffic and environmental mitigations. The comment letter shall take into consideration comments and concerns expressed by the community during the public review period.

Background:

According to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority website, the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) is a vital transportation artery, linking the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to major Southern California distribution centers and intermodal rail facilities. An essential component of the regional, statewide and national transportation system, it serves both passenger and goods movement vehicles.

As a result of population growth, increased cargo container volume at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, increasing traffic volumes, and an aging infrastructure, the I-710 Freeway experiences serious congestion and safety issues.

The EIS/EIR, a study required by federal and state statutes, is an assessment of the likely influences that future improvements may have on the environment and communities along the corridor. It includes analyses of ways to reduce or avoid possible adverse environmental impacts. It was released for comment until August 29, 2012.

The I-710 Corridor Project EIS/EIR seeks to break new ground in not only identifying impacts and mitigation strategies but in engaging community members and stakeholders in developing strategies to improve air quality, mobility, and quality of life.

The City of Long Beach has an opportunity to work to ensure that this project is developed in a way that our immediate community is minimally impacted and that we take advantage of opportunities to improve our community.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact