



**Date:** October 11, 2019

**To:** Thomas B. Modica, Acting City Manager *TBM*

**From:** Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works *CB*

**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject:** **Shoemaker Bridge Replacement Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and Notice of Availability for Public Comment**

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This memorandum provides an update on the federal environmental clearance status of the Shoemaker Bridge Replacement Project (Project).

### **Background**

Shoemaker Bridge was built in 1954 and has served as an important connection between the Downtown Long Beach area and the I-710 freeway. The Project will replace the existing bridge, which has structural and operational deficiencies, and will realign local street connections in the area to create new functional park space. The Project is an early action project (EAP) of the I-710 Corridor Project and is compatible with the planned freeway improvements.

Currently, the Project is going through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review phases. A joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared to consider the potential environmental impacts in compliance with NEPA and CEQA requirements.

### Notice of Availability

The Draft EIR document is now in circulation for public comment. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Long Beach Press-Telegram, La Opinion, and the City's website on September 27, 2019.

Hard copies of the Draft EIR are available to the public at the following locations:

- Caltrans District 7 Office, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Billie Jean King Main Library, 200 W. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802
- Mark Twain Neighborhood Library, 1401 E. Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90813
- Public Works Department, 411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl, Long Beach, 90802

An electronic version is also available on the City's [website](#).

### Public Comment Period

The public comment period is scheduled for a minimum of 45 days, from September 27 through November 12, 2019. During this time, the Public Works Department will collect and review comments, followed by coordinated responses.

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Cesar Chavez Elementary School Gymnasium, located at 730 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Long Beach. American Sign Language, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog language interpreters will be available for the public hearing. For those that cannot make the public hearing, comments can be made via email to [info@shoemakerprojectlb.com](mailto:info@shoemakerprojectlb.com).

### Next Steps

After the public comment period, staff will finalize the Draft EIR, respond to comments, and submit to Caltrans for approval. The environmental process ends with the Final EIR, the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact for NEPA and Notice of Determination for CEQA.

Public Works staff will provide an update on the Project and potential alternatives to the I-710 Oversight Committee and the City Council over the next few months. As part of the next steps, a preferred alternative will need to be presented and approved by the City Council.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Alvin Papa at (562) 570-6386.

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