



Date: April 16, 2008

To: *fw* Patrick H. West, City Manager *SKA*

From: Michael Conway, Director of Public Works *DMC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **COMMUNITY LIVABILITY PLAN FOR I-710 NEIGHBORHOODS**

Attached is a copy of the Community Livability Plan for neighborhoods along the I-710 Corridor. This plan evolved from the development of the I-710 Major Corridor Study completed in 2005, and the response from Long Beach neighborhoods that raised legitimate concerns about the impacts that increased truck traffic and Port operations would have on their already impacted quality of life. These neighborhoods held firmly that plans to increase and expand those operations could not and should not be considered without first addressing the quality of life in neighborhoods like theirs that would be most impacted. This plan was developed through the leadership and commitment of the I-710 Council Oversight Committee, whose members include Chairperson Councilwoman Tonia Reyes Uranga, Vice-Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, and Councilman Val Lerch.

This Community Livability Plan was funded by an \$182,400 Environmental Justice Planning Grant administered by Caltrans. With this grant, residents from neighborhoods along the I-710 Freeway came together to grapple with these challenges, while building upon the assets in their neighborhoods. It is clear that health and air quality issues that these neighborhoods face must be addressed by regional, state and federal regulatory agencies. As such, the larger environmental concerns of these neighborhoods will be addressed in the \$30 million environmental study of the I-710 Freeway that is currently being initiated through a partnership between Metro, Caltrans, SCAG, Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the two Ports. This plan, therefore, focused its resources on physical improvements that impact the quality of life in those neighborhoods, building on existing assets like the Los Angeles River and the regional bike path, improving connections and alternative transportation, expanding open space and the green environment, and building partnerships with schools and transit to maximize limited resources.

The Community Livability Plan also identifies physical improvements to address environmental concerns related to the I-710 Freeway itself, focusing on corridor-wide improvements such as enhanced aesthetically designed soundwalls to address noise, expanded freeway overcrossings to improve congestion and provide safer connections for bicycle and pedestrian access, and greening the corridor with trees and expanded landscapes along the Los Angeles River and the surrounding street grid. This plan has now become the starting point for the environmental study of the I-710 Corridor that is just beginning with Caltrans, Metro, the two Ports and SCAG which covers the full length of the I-710

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Freeway, most of whom served on the internal working group to develop this plan.

The Long Beach I-710 Community Livability Plan encompasses only the first eight miles of this 18-mile corridor that is within the City of Long Beach. The Gateway Cities Council of Governments is distributing copies of this plan to the rest of the cities and communities along the I-710 Major Corridor Study to guide them in their efforts to address the challenges facing their neighborhoods, which are very similar to Long Beach.

If you have any questions, please call Sumire Gant, Transportation Programs Officer, at (562) 570-6618.

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Attachment