

6th Street Viaduct Seismic Improvement Project Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting # 8

Meeting: with CAC Members and Business Community

Meeting Date: 02/12/2009 6:00 p.m. – 8:30p.m.

Location: Boyle Heights Technology Center

Attendees:

Estela Lopez, Central City East Association
Dea Brawley, OnLocation Inc.
Shelly Backlar, Friends of the LA River
Teresa Marquez, Boyle Heights Homeowner and Resident Association
Ken Bernstein, Department of City Planning Historical Resources
Lupe Martin, Business Owner
Melissa Strong, Boyle Heights Homeowner and Resident Association
Kevin Break, Break Photography
Carol Armstrong, LA River Revitalization Committee
Geoffrey Smith, Film L.A. Inc.
Marc Spilo, Spilo World Wide
Mike Buhler, Los Angeles Conservancy
Bearg Sarkis, LADOT
Frank Gallo, Rancho Cold Storage
Ron America, Business Representative
Tonya Durrel, PAO, Department of Public Works
Jim Zant, CAL HONO Freight Forwarders, Inc.
Karen Owens, Arts District Police Department
Edwin Shaolian, Basic Textile
Art Herrera, Boyle Heights Resident
Joaquin Castellanos, Boyle Heights Resident
David Miranda, Miranda Photos
Eric Richardson, Downtown Blog
Jesse Leon, Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Martha Cisneros, Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
Miguel Martinez, Office of Assemblymember John Perez
Art Torres, Boyle Heights Historical Society
Peter Kahn, Cal-Fiber Inc.
Celina Mancia, Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Vicky Torres, Boyle Heights Historical Society
Laurie Perlowin, Boyle Heights Resident
Rick McCutcheon, GLACIER Cold Storage Ltd.
Rebecca Delgado, Boyle Heights Historical Society
Helen Mercado, Boyle Heights Resident
Alfonso Mercado, Boyle Heights Resident
Agustin Torres, Business Representative
Michael Lumary, Lumary's Tire Service
Guy William Brewley, Business Representative
Cynthia Ruiz, Department of Public Works Commission

Project Development Team:

Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer
John Koo, LABOE
Jim Wu, LABOE
Carlos Montez, Caltrans
Wally Stokes, LABOE
Yoga Chandran, CH2M Hill
Jeff Bingham, Parsons
Anne Kochaon, Parsons
Steve Thoman, David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Tony Torres, DSO
Lorena Sanchez, DSO

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Meeting Summary:

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 8 was held with about 50 attendees. The objective of the CAC # 8 meeting was to update CAC members, property owners and tenants on the project's status and to provide a preview of the environmental document that will soon be circulated for public review. All members received a copy of the CAC #7 meeting minutes, a copy of the meeting agenda and PowerPoint presentation handouts, the Administrative Draft EIR/EIS Executive Summary, and a public comment form. The meeting opened with a welcome and introduction by Tony Torres of DSO. Celina Mancina, representing Council District 14, greeted the public on behalf of Councilmember Jose Huizar. The President of the Board of Public Works, Commissioner Cynthia Ruiz, and City Engineer Gary Lee Moore also acknowledged and thanked the CAC members for their input to the PDT over the past two years. Jeff Bingham of Parsons facilitated the meeting. During the meeting, an overview of the CAC #7 meeting was given and a replacement bridge alternative model was displayed. The Administrative Draft EIR/EIS Executive Summary was distributed to CAC members along with a letter of commendation signed by the City Engineer. Copies of the Administrative Draft EIR/EIS Executive Summary were also distributed to other attendees who are not CAC members.

All members were encouraged to ask questions at all times during the meeting. The meeting included a question & answer session. All attendees were encouraged to submit written comments. Four CAC members (Teresa Marquez, Victoria Torres, Arturo Torres and Arturo Herrera) expressed their dislike of the staff recommended modern bridge concept 4 (modern cable-supported bridge), and concerns that staff had disregarded previous CAC support for a replica concept. The project team explained to the CAC members and other attendees that no decision has been made on the final bridge type, and that the project team will continue to listen to the public input throughout the on-going environmental review and approval process.

Questions and Comments:

Questions, comments, and input raised by the CAC members and the business community during the meeting are summarized below:

- When will business owners be notified of direct impacts to our businesses and how much time will we have if we need to move location? When is the earliest?
- Real estate staff should be present at next CAC meeting.
- When will decisions be made regarding federal funding?
- Properties impacted need notifications.
- Keeping businesses in the District should be a priority.
- Will there be a committee formed for design process to discuss details/designs?
- Safety issues should be a priority.
- What is the life expectancy of the bridge model the City is proposing?
- Additional and more timely notice for CAC meetings is needed – more than 2 weeks.
- Federal and State representatives and interested agencies should attend CAC meetings.
- Lighting is critically needed for the 6th Street Bridge. What is the status on these projects?
- Are there maps of the original bridge available to the public?
- Does the bridge curb-to-curb width need to be 70 ft? Can you save more businesses by making the bridge

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smaller in width?

- What traffic impacts will be in store for Boyle Heights and the business community?
- Will Boyle Heights receive additional street paving services and maintenance due to traffic and congestion impacts?
- Have traffic impacts been evaluated and will mitigation measures be implemented? What are they?
- The community voted on keeping the replica design style for the new bridge.
- When will there be another CAC meeting?
- The community wants to keep informed on current projects (lighting, street services, maintenance...) in relation to the bridge.
- Is the railroad selling land near the bridge?
- What are the risks and benefits of widening the bridge?

Next CAC Meeting:

Next CAC meeting will be scheduled sometime in April 2009.

Action Items:

- Send meeting minutes to CAC members.
- Set Date for next CAC meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2009.