

6th Street Viaduct Seismic Improvement Project Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting # 9

Meeting: with CAC Members and business community

Meeting Date: 04/08/2009 6:00 p.m. – 8:30p.m.

Location: Boyle Heights Senior Center

Attendees:

Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Rhianna Morales, Attendee
Loreta Valdez, Attendee
Geoffrey Smith, Film L.A. Inc.
Teresa Marquez, Boyle Heights Homeowner and Resident Association
Shelly Backlar, Friends of the LA River
Miguel Martinez, Office of Assemblymember John Perez
Betsy Cardenas, Office of Assemblymember John Perez
Ricardo Mendoza, Office of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard
Bearg Sarkis, LADOT
Martha Cisneros, Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
Edgar Garcia, City of Los Angeles Planning Department
Estela Lopez, Central City East Association
Michelle Mowery, LADOT
Mike Buhler, Los Angeles Conservancy
Fatima Djelmane, Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce
Teri Griffin, Barrio Planners
Frank Villalobos, Barrio Planners
Nick Schilling, Attendee
Art Torres, Boyle Heights Historical Society
Fidel Medina, Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce
Ed Fuentes, Downtown Blog
Laurie Perlowin, Boyle Heights Resident
Nien Wang, Engineer HNTB
Semyon Treyger, Engineer HNTB
Paul Habib, Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Kevin Break, Break Photography
Jesse Leon, Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Qathryn Brehm, Arts District Resident
Joaquin Castellanos, Boyle Heights Resident
Rebecca Delgado, Boyle Heights Historical Society
Jim Bickley, Spilo World Wide
David Lewis, Caltrans
Mike Jones, Engineer HNTB
Celina Mancia, Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Phillip Homme, Business Representative
Vicky Torres, Boyle Heights Historical Society
Frank Viramontes, LABOE
Phil Richardson, LABOE
Tonya Durrel, PAO, Department of Public Works
Don MacDonald, MacDonald Architects

Project Development Team:

Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer
John Koo, LABOE
Jim Wu, LABOE
Yoga Chandran, CH2M Hill
Jeff Bingham, Parsons
Steve Thoman, HNTB
Tony Torres, DSO
Lorena Sanchez, DSO

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2839 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90023

Meeting Summary:

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 9 was held with about 49 attendees. The objective of the CAC # 9 meeting was to present to CAC members the various bridge concepts the Project Development Team (PDT) has developed, to obtain input from CAC members bridge features, and to provide an overview of the design process yet to come in the next year.

The meeting opened with a welcome, introduction and brief overview of the project by Tonya Durrell of the City of Los Angeles' Public Affairs Office (PAO). City Engineer, Gary Lee Moore, acknowledged and thanked attendees for their input and involvement throughout the process and reiterated that the PDT is working hard to ensure this project moves forward with a design that the community supports. In addition, he spoke of the importance to have the community provide feedback during the design process. Thereafter, City Engineer Gary Lee Moore introduced Councilmember Jose Huizar who talked about the importance of the project and his commitment to ensuring this project moves forward and on schedule.

Jeff Bingham of Parsons assisted with facilitating the rest of the meeting and provided an overview of the evolution of the bridge concepts. Attendees were informed that comments and concerns at the previous CAC meeting (CAC No. 8) were considered by the PDT. The PDT presented two additional bridge concepts that were added: the Replication of the Existing Viaduct from abutment to abutment (Concept 1A), and a 3-Dual Tower Cable supported Viaduct (Concept 4A). Both of these concepts were presented at the CAC 4 meeting but Concept 1, Replication of the Main Span, and Concept 4 a Single Dual Tower Cable supported Viaduct were developed in more detail considering design constraints and costs. The PDT discussed that these two bridge type concepts will be re-introduced for further study, as options for the replacement alternative and for comparison to the other developed concepts.

Mr. Bingham introduced Don MacDonald of MacDonald Architects, who facilitated the design charrette on bridge types. Don discussed the architectural features of the existing structures and how these were incorporated into the replacement structures. Don solicited feedback from the community members on various bridge elements. He explained that majority of these features could be incorporated in to any of the replacement structure concepts.

Frank Viramontes, a real estate representative working with the City's Bureau of Engineering Department was introduced and was available to speak to concerned business representatives. Both Jeff Bingham and City Engineer Gary Lee Moore, explained to the CAC members and other attendees that no decision has been made on the final bridge type and concluded by providing an overview of the steps needed for the project's approval. Jeff also stated that as the team moves into final design the CAC would be replaced by an Aesthetic Advisory Committee (AAC), which will provide input on the features to be considered for the selected bridge structure. The AAC will include key members from local architectural community as well as representatives from the community.

Attendees were given an opportunity to provide input on the bridge concepts and provided a copy of the CAC #8 meeting minutes, a copy of the meeting agenda and PowerPoint presentation handouts, and a public comment form. All members were encouraged to ask questions after the design charrette presentation. The meeting included a question & answer session, a summary of which is provided below. All attendees were also encouraged to submit written comments.

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Questions and Comments:

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

- Towers should reflect details of other adjacent bridges
- Lighting should be seasonal- blue, red, green, etc.. for seasons
- Why are pylons reduced under the bridge in the new design?
- Antique lights should be included in the new bridge design – similar to other bridges spanning over the river
- Pillars should be included in bridge design for aesthetics
- Will new bridge design allow for public transit/light rail projects?
- Can color be incorporated in the bridge/concrete such as tones, textures, light blue colors
- Bridge color to accent sunset/sunrise light
- Bring “original” tower designs
- Bridge color should match other bridge colors
- Arches should be a different color than bridge
- Bridge and arch colors should compliment sunlight, sunset, etc
- Antique colors to compliment bridge color
- Include lighting on hand rails
- Metal and decorative grates for drainage should be used
- Tie bridge design into Los Angeles River revitalization project
 - Future improvements- lighting on Los Angeles River
- Allow for public space and include features to allow the public to congregate (e.g. sitting areas, picture and view areas...)
- Do you need the use of vehicles to have access to bridge or can people walk to the bridge?
- Will bridge project create funding sources dedicated to Boyle Heights to mitigate potential increase in traffic?
- Who will maintain the bridge and ensure the up-keep without graffiti and vandalism?
- Public areas on bridge may increase and attract the homeless
- Free Wi-Fi to be provided near bridge
- Can you include mile markers for the use of local runners and bikers? The bridge should have a multi-purpose use for the surrounding communities
- Will there be a staircase for access to the bridge?
- Is it possible to makes use of a bus stop on the bridge?
- Belvederes and benches on bridge become a problem
- Decorative pylons should be included in the “Boyle Heights” gateway sign on bridge
- Maintain decorative entrances to existing tunnels and utilize tunnels as connectors to future L.A. River Access
- Lower deck to be added for transit/tunnel under Boyle Heights: Soto Street Station
- Lighting under bridge to highlight the L.A. River
- Emergency access/ stairways to be included into design
- We like all designs
- Will curve on bridge be straightened out?
- Will new, straighter design increase spaces or bridge by vehicles?
- Add speed limits on bridge. No speed limit increase
- Include anti-graffiti coating on new bridge

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- Use steel structure in design
- Opportunity to utilize space under bridge
- Bridge designs ought to include lighting in the design
- Kiosks with educational/historical designation to be displayed on bridge
- CCEA receives many calls regarding timeline for potential property acquisition
- Specialty businesses in downtown CCEA area need a lot of time to relocate their businesses
- 14 months is not enough time to relocate a business with over a hundred employees
- CCEA can help facilitate ROW meetings with impacted businesses
- Lorena & 4th St. bridge project is taking too long to complete and we hope that's not the case for the 6th Street Bridge. Don't make the same mistakes

Next CAC Meeting:

To be announced.

Action Items:

- Send meeting minutes to CAC members.