



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

August 9, 2012

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *by A.T.L.*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: DOUGLAS R. FAILING, P.E. *DR Failing*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAY PROGRAM

SUBJECT: 30 Day Extension to I-710 Draft EIR/EIS

ISSUE

Caltrans recently announced a 30 day extension to the I-710 Draft EIR/EIS public comment period. The duration of the comment period is now 90 days.

The release of the Draft EIR/EIS and the subsequent comment period is a significant milestone for the Measure R funded I-710 South Corridor Project. Public comments are due to Caltrans on or before September 28, 2012.

BACKGROUND

At the May 2012 Planning & Programming Committee, staff presented a Receive and File Board Report informing the Board that the I-710 Draft EIR/EIS would be released for public comment in June 2012. The public comment period began June 29, 2012.

Caltrans, the owner/operator of the highway, is the lead agency for CEQA and NEPA, and thus is responsible for establishing the duration of the comment period of this environmental document. The minimum time for public comment under CEQA is 45 days. Originally, Caltrans established a 60 day comment period for this environmental document: June 29, 2012 – August 29, 2012.

While comments made at I-710 community meetings regarding the public review period varied, there were many requests for extending the public comment period. Two advisory committees under the I-710 Community Participation Structure supported extensions of the review period. The I-710 Corridor Advisory Committee supported a 120 day public comment period, which was also supported by the I-710 Project Committee.

DISCUSSION

On August 7, 2012, the first of three scheduled public hearings for the Draft EIR/EIS began. At the first public hearing Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director of Environmental Planning, announced that Caltrans extended the comment period by an additional 30 days. The comment period is now 90 days, and comments must be submitted by September 28, 2012.

This announcement has been repeated at the subsequent public hearings and is available via Caltrans I-710 Project web page:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs/docs/710corridor/docs/30_Day_Extension_Letter.pdf

NEXT STEPS

Metro, Caltrans, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the I-710 Project Team will continue to proactively present at community meetings and provide resources for stakeholders so that they can make informed comments on the I-710 Draft EIR/EIS.

Staff will consult with Counsel to discuss what other notifications are necessary to announce and/or inform of the additional 30 days for public review.

Prepared by: Adrian Alvarez, Transportation Planning Manager, Highway Program
 Frank Quon, Executive Officer, Highway Program