



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE ("LRC") OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Action Report

Committee: LRC OF THE WHOLE

Members: City Representative Emma Acosta
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Cortney Niland
City Representative Michiel Noe
City Representative Steve Ortega
City Representative Carl Robinson

Date of Meeting: December 15, 2011

I. Presentation and discussion on the Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project, alignment options and summary of Agency and Public Scoping Meetings.

Summary:

HNTB staff made a presentation on the status of the Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project. Currently, Loop 375 only partially encircles the City of El Paso. The Border Highway section ends near downtown El Paso at Santa Fe Street. Numerous previous studies have identified capacity concerns and potential solutions, including the proposed Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project which would begin at Park Street and extend to Racetrack Drive near Doniphan Street. The proposed project would close the gap in Loop 375 that exists from Santa Fe Street downtown to US 85, creating a continuous loop of approximately 8 miles.

The project is now being developed at the state level and would not use federal funds. The study area has been modified (to incorporate new alternative routes utilizing the ASARCO and CEMEX properties) to reflect three independent projects: Border Highway West, Schuster Avenue Extension and I-10/US 85 Collector/Distributor lanes to expedite the environmental review process and construction completion schedule. The recommended alternatives for further analysis include Railyard A, Railyard B, Border A and Border B.

A public scoping meeting was held on December 8, 2011 and comments are requested by December 19, 2011. Comments are also welcome after this date as the environmental process will include more public meetings and will continue for possibly another year. The LRC recommended that the options under review include consideration for the following:

- Provide access to Downtown
- Development of the ASARCO site consistent with land use and economic development

- Aesthetics and context sensitive solutions to prevent neighborhoods from being disconnected from the rest of the City
- Development of transportation infrastructure that is conducive to pedestrians cyclists
- Preference for Border A design.

There was also discussion about conducting an air quality analysis near the ports of entry to determine the impact of traffic flow to the environment.

Action Taken:

The LRC requested that HNTB staff make the same presentation before the entire City Council at the December 19, 2011 Special Council meeting, if possible, or within 30 days.

Disposition:

This item will be added to the December 19 Special City Council agenda if possible.

SUBMITTED BY:

City Representative Emma Acosta, District 3
Chair, Transportation LRC

Jane Shang, Deputy City Manager
City Manager – Mobility Services