

# Memorandum

**To:** Chair and Commissioners

**Date:** February 2, 2009

**From:** JOHN F. BARNA, JR.

**File:** Book Item 2.2a (1)  
Action

**Ref:** Notice of Preparation – Environmental Impact Report for the Washington Boulevard Improvement Project

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, provide comments in response to the Notice of Preparation that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Washington Boulevard Improvement Project (Project)?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission make no comments regarding the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. However, staff recommends that, since this project is programmed in the TCIF, a letter be sent to the City of Commerce (City) that states:

- At the time the final environmental document is provided to the Commission, confirmation is required in writing whether the scope of work of the project as identified through the environmental process is or is not consistent with the project programmed in the TCIF. In the event the project has been revised, the revised scope may require a request to the Commission for a program/project amendment.
- In the event the project has been revised and will result in an estimated cost above the current programmed amount, the City is responsible for securing necessary supplemental funds and identifying the source where supplemental funds will be obtained to ensure the project continues to be fully funded and that the project can be successfully implemented. If the City recommends supplemental funding from sources that are within the purview of the Commission (Bond, STIP, TCRP, etc.), Commission approval for programming or allocation of these funds will be required. Conversely, if the City will utilize local (or local-federal) funds, the City shall provide a local board action or resolution committing the supplemental funding levels to the Commission.
- In its adopting resolution for the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF), the Commission established its intention to monitor the outcomes of the environmental process with regard to air quality impacts due to emissions from diesel or other particulates and related mitigation strategies. The Commission will only allocate TCIF to projects that can demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental requirements, including the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The Commission expects that the City would commit to the implementation of these mitigation measures as part of its submittal of the final environmental document for approval for future funding consideration.

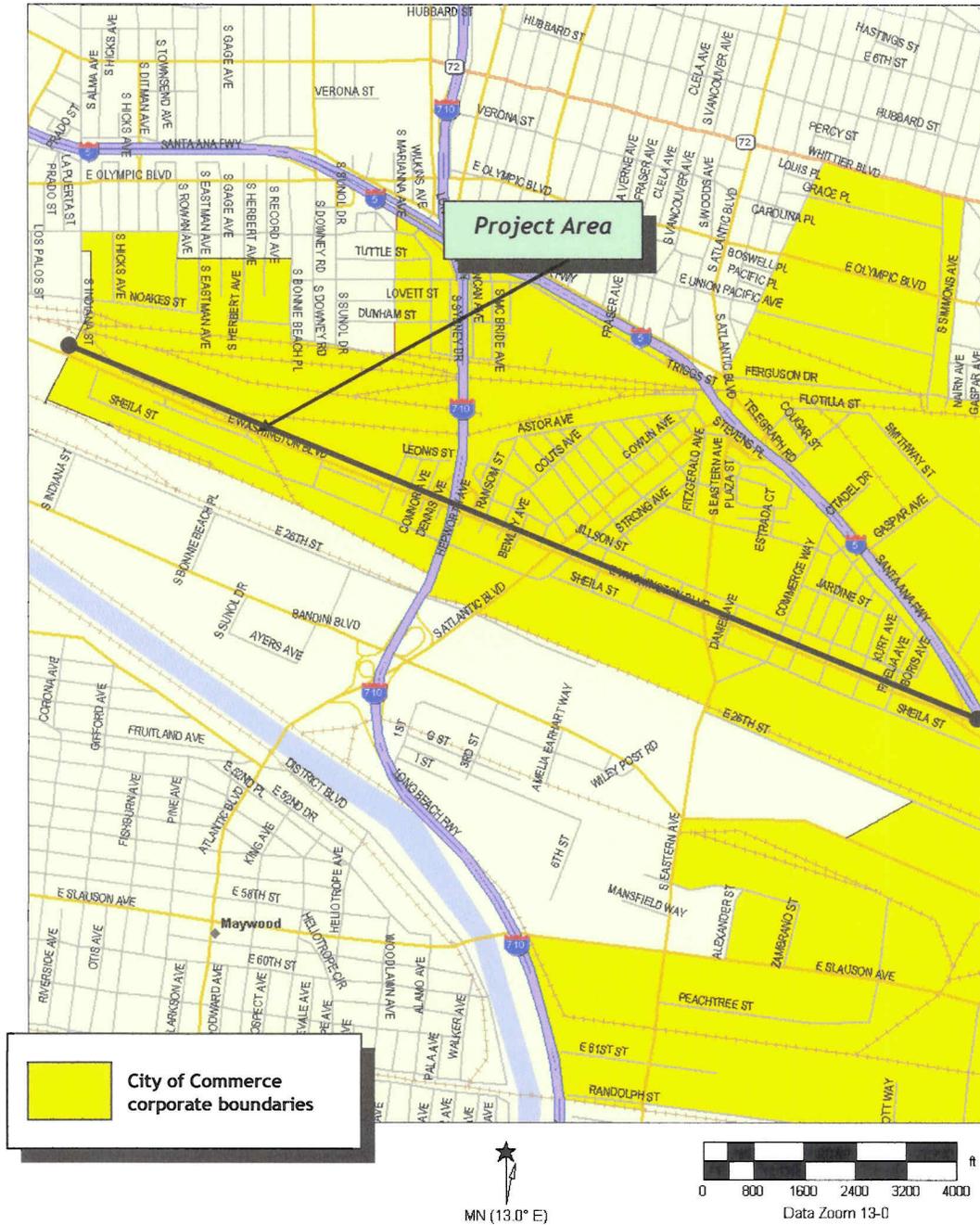
**BACKGROUND:** The City of Commerce is the designated lead agency overseeing the environmental review for the project. An initial study completed by the City determined that the proposed project may lead to potentially significant adverse impacts in the absence of mitigation or that additional information is required to ascertain the level of impact and the requisite mitigation. Specifically, the initial study indicated that the EIR must consider impacts to traffic circulation, air quality, tree removal, and noise.

Washington Boulevard is a designated truck route and is a key link in the regional movement of goods from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the intermodal terminals of the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Yards in the Cities of Commerce and Vernon. The project is located entirely within the City. The portion of Washington Boulevard that is subject to the proposed improvements extends from west of Indiana Street continuing easterly to the Santa Ana (I-5) Freeway. The project involves the reconstruction of the Washington Boulevard roadway surface as well as other ancillary improvements. The existing deteriorating roadway surface is largely covered over in asphalt surfaces that represent a hazard to vehicles using Washington Boulevard. Project improvements will permit the addition of a single additional travel lane in each direction and other roadway improvements.

According to the TCIF programming documents, the project is estimated to cost \$32,000,000 and is programmed with TCIF (\$5,800,000), MTA Proposition C (\$13,362,000), Federal (\$2,310,000) and Local (\$10,528,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin May 2009.

Attachment I – Project Location

Notice of Preparation • Initial Study  
Washington Boulevard Improvement Project



**Exhibit 3**  
**Vicinity Map**  
Source: Delorme 2006