

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: May 4, 2010

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (10)
Action

Ref: Final Environmental Impact Report – Washington Blvd Improvement Project (Resolution E-10-40)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Washington Blvd Improvement Project (project) in Los Angeles County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission accept the FEIR and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: The City of Commerce (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project is located entirely within the City. The project involves the reconstruction of Washington Boulevard as well as other ancillary improvements. Project improvements will permit the addition of a single additional travel lane in each direction and other roadway improvements.

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 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 existing deteriorating roadway surface is largely covered over in asphalt surfaces that represent a hazard to vehicles using Washington Boulevard.

The City approved the FEIR on May 4th, 2010. The environmental analysis concluded that the project will not result in any significant adverse impacts after mitigation. Impacts related to air quality; biological resources; noise; and transportation and circulation were identified as requiring mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, implementation of dust control measures during construction; implementation of a comprehensive tree survey and tree replacement/relocation plan by a qualified arborist; compliance with city noise control requirements during construction; and timing construction activities to minimize traffic impacts.

The project is programmed in the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund Program of projects. On May 4, 2010 the City provided confirmation that the scope of work of the project as identified through the environmental process is consistent with the project programmed in the TCIF.

Chair and Commissioners

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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 was estimated to begin November 2009.

Attachments

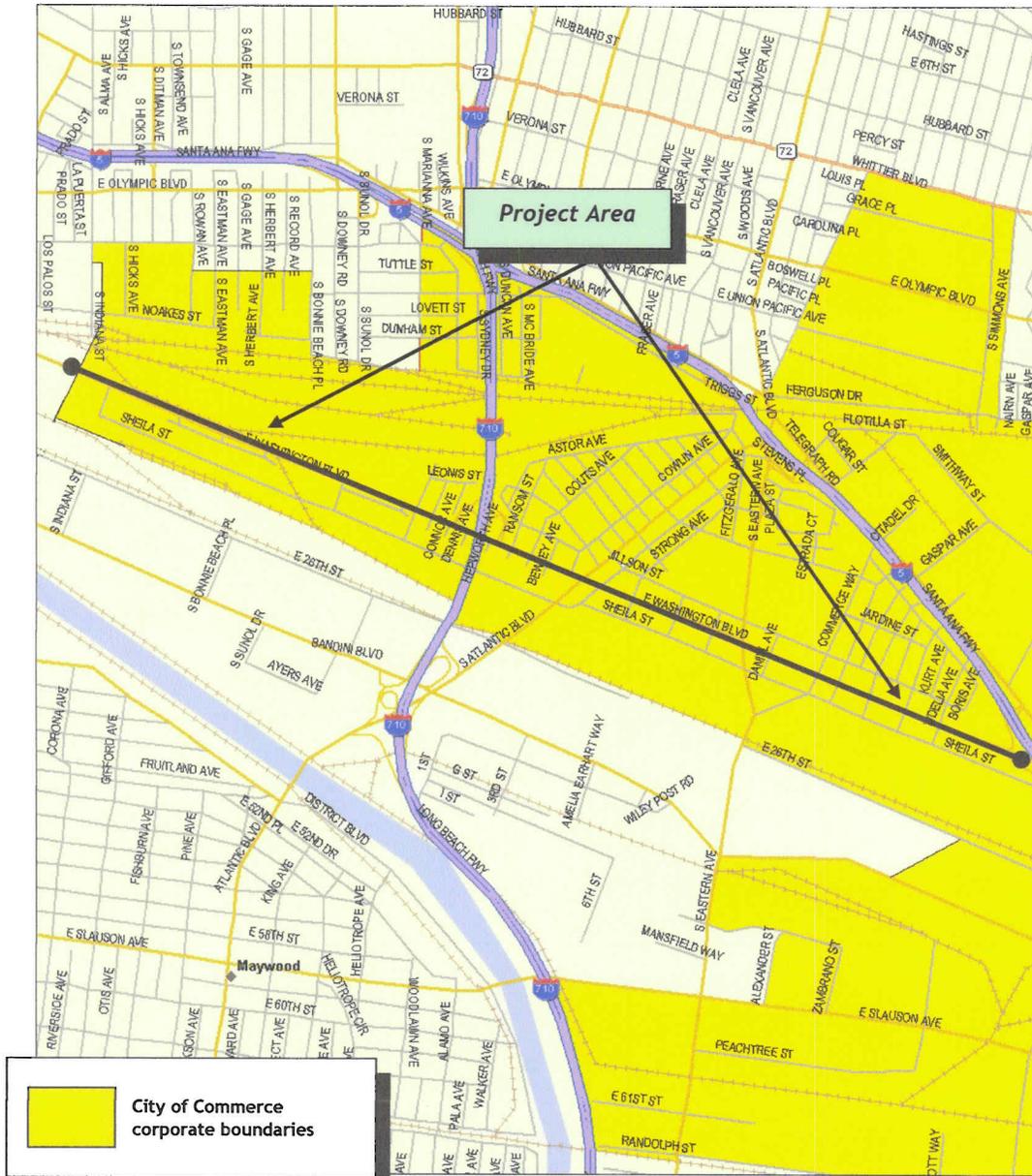
CTC Resolution E-10-40

Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Consideration of Future Funding 07 – Los Angeles County Resolution E-10-40

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Commerce (City) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Washington Boulevard Improvement Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project would reconstruct Washington Boulevard as well as other ancillary improvements. Project improvements will permit the addition of a single additional travel lane in each direction and other roadway improvements; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the City found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City approved the Final Environmental Impact Report.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



 City of Commerce corporate boundaries

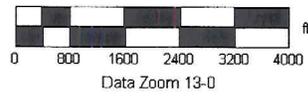


EXHIBIT 3 VICINITY MAP

SOURCE: BLODGETT/BAYLOSIS ASSOCIATES