



Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2013

FROM: PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LEVEL III COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (NO. 13-14) FOR THE JOHN S. GIBSON BLVD AND HARRY BRIDGES BLVD ROADWAY WIDENING AND RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPROVEMENTS AS PART OF THE C STREET/I-110 ACCESS RAMP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

SUMMARY:

The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve the Interstate 110 (I-110) freeway/C Street Interchange (Proposed Project). Portions of the Proposed Project that are located on John S. Gibson Boulevard and Harry Bridges Boulevard are within the coastal zone in the jurisdiction of the Harbor Department and require the issuance of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). Staff is recommending that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve CDP No. 13-14, a Level III, non-appealable permit, for the sections of the Proposed Project that are in the coastal zone.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Hold a public hearing for the proposed Level III, non-appealable Coastal Development Permit No. 13-14;
2. Find that the Proposed Project conforms with the Port Master Plan and the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended, and find that this project will have no significant adverse environmental impacts as provided in the California Environmental Quality Act;
3. Upon closure of the public hearing, resolve to approve the issuance of a Level III, non-appealable Coastal Development Permit No. 13-14 for the John S. Gibson Boulevard and Harry Bridges Boulevard roadway widening and right-of-way improvements as part of the C Street/I-110 Access Ramp Improvements Project, subject to the standard conditions set forth in the permit, and direct the Director of Planning & Economic Development to issue said permit; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

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DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – Peak period traffic at the intersection of Figueroa Street, Interstate 110 (I-110) ramps, and C Street are expected to worsen by 2035, from traffic that is stable (Level B) to congested traffic jams (Level F). As a result, this will cause significant backup on the I-110 freeway and local streets. To accommodate the expected increase in traffic, the Harbor Department in cooperation with Caltrans have developed the Proposed Project.

Total capital expenditures for the Proposed Project is \$36,140,000, of which \$14,947,000 is grant reimbursable through the Federal Highway Administration, State of California, and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority, leaving a Harbor Department cost share of \$21,193,000.

Project Scope of Work – The Proposed Project would include a I-110 northbound off-ramp for direct access to Harry Bridges Boulevard, modification of the I-110 northbound on-ramp from C Street, realignment of Harry Bridges Boulevard, and combining the I-110 ramp terminal/C Street/Figueroa Street intersection with the John S. Gibson Boulevard/Harry Bridges Boulevard intersection (Transmittal 1). The scope of work within the coastal zone includes roadway widening and right-of-way improvements of John S. Gibson Boulevard and Harry Bridges Boulevard as part of the Proposed Project (Transmittal 2). The Proposed Project would also include removing and relocating utilities such as the water, gas, telecommunications, and electrical lines. The estimated total capital expenditures for the C Street/I-110 Access Ramp Improvements Project are \$36,140,000. The estimated cost of the scope of work that is within the coastal zone is \$1,185,000.

On June 21, 2012, the Board certified the Interstate 110/C Street Interchange Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) that was jointly prepared by the Harbor Department and Caltrans, which analyzed all potentially significant adverse environmental impacts and incorporated mitigation measures that would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. The Proposed Project was not found to have significant cumulative impacts or unavoidable adverse impacts.

Coastal Permit Requirements – The Proposed Project is located in Master Planning Areas 4 and 5. The scope of work located within the coastal zone requires a Level III, non-appealable coastal development permit in accordance with the definitions set forth in the *Guidelines for Implementation of the Port of Los Angeles Certified Port Master Plan*. A Level III permit is one of three levels of permits that the Board can issue (Transmittal 3). Level III permits are required for developments that involve large capital expenditures, have a risk of substantial adverse environmental impacts that can be

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mitigated, involve the potential for unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated, or result in major changes in land and/or water uses.

The Proposed Project has been found to be consistent with the Port Master Plan, as the proposed development involves infrastructure improvements related to General Cargo uses, which is an allowable use in Master Planning Areas 4 and 5. The Proposed Project has also been found to be consistent with Chapter 8 policies of the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended. Specifically, the John S. Gibson Boulevard and Harry Bridges Boulevard roadway widening and right-of-way improvements are consistent with Section 30708 that requires port-related development be given highest priority for the use of existing land within harbors for port purposes, including shipping industries.

On October 23, 2013, the public notice for the John S. Gibson Blvd. and Harry Bridges Blvd. roadway widening and right-of-way improvements as part of the C Street/I-110 Access Ramp Improvements Project was published (Transmittal 4).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is issuance of a Level III CDP for the widening of John S. Gibson Blvd. and Harry Bridges Blvd. as part of the C Street/I-110 Access Ramp Improvements Project. The Project was assessed in the I-110/C Street Interchange Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which was approved by the Board in June of 2012. Therefore, as an activity for which the underlying project has previously been evaluated for environmental significance and processed according to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(i) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

The Project associated with the proposed CDP will support 319 direct and 220 secondary one-year equivalent jobs for the five-county region.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This proposed action does not approve the expenditure of funds related to design, environmental management, and construction of the project; it only approves the issuance of the proposed Level III CDP. The estimated total capital expenditures for this project are \$36,140,000. The estimated cost of the scope of work that is within the coastal zone is \$1,185,000. On September 13, 2012, resolution No. 12-7383 was approved by the Board for a cooperative agreement with the California Department of

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Transportation for the Proposed Project. The Board will consider an action in the future to approve the construction contract for expenditure of funds.

Subsequent to Project completion, the State of California Department of Transportation and City of Los Angeles will fully bear the ongoing operating and maintenance costs associated with the Proposed Project.

CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed this Board Report and concluded that it raises no legal issues at this time.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Project Map
2. Site Map
3. CDP No. 13-14
4. Public Notice

FIS Approval:  (initials)
CA Approval:  (initials)


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