

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

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BOARD VOTES \$5 MILLION FOR 710 HIGHWAY STUDY

Environmental Study To Look at Proposed Overhaul of Long Beach Freeway

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The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted to appropriate \$5 million toward the cost of an environmental impact study for a proposed \$5.5 billion overhaul of the congestion-plagued Long Beach (Interstate-710) Freeway. The board, voting on Aug. 8, also endorsed the creation of a multi-jurisdictional entity to develop the environmental impact study.

The environmental study would examine design alternatives and evaluate the benefits and impacts of widening the 50-year-old freeway to 10 general purpose lanes from the existing six, plus a four-lane truck component as outlined in a recently adopted "Locally Preferred Strategy."

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which is spearheading the I-710 project, estimates that the environmental study will cost \$30 million and take three to four years to complete. In addition to the contribution from the Port of Long Beach, the MTA is seeking \$5 million each from the state Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the Port of Los Angeles. The MTA also is seeking \$1 million from the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, and is seeking \$4 million from the federal government.

After months of public meetings, the Locally Preferred Strategy was adopted, outlining an I-710 project that would create 10 general-purpose lanes, four exclusive truck lanes (two in each direction between Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach and the rail yards near East Los Angeles), ramp metering, interchange improvements and a truck inspection facility.

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