Welcome and Introductions

Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer of the City of Los Angeles, welcomed the members of the committee and attendees.

Councilman Ed Reyes, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River, provided remarks and commendations to the RCC for its work in facilitating implementation of projects and practices that aid in LA River revitalization.

Items for the Committee’s Information

None provided.

Items for the Committee’s Consideration and Recommendation

City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation: Los Angeles River Bikeway Network, (Note: This project involved submission of a TIGER III grant to the US Department of Transportation, but it was not selected.)

Nate Baird of LADOT presented this project and described its scope and estimated cost. The project, if funded, would provide approximately 29 miles of total bikeway improvements, beginning in the western San Fernando Valley and ending with a connection near the LA River in the City of Vernon. A City team led by LADOT put together a grant application to USDOT seeking $13 million in federal TIGER (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery) III funds, which it was prepared to match with $5 million in local funds from Measure R. The application process and results were also discussed, particularly why the project was not selected in the most recent round. Baird communicated that no stand-alone bikeway project was selected for this round and that the two projects that were funded in our area were heavy-duty roadway-related infrastructure projects with a larger budget and higher local matching fund percentage. It was agreed that LADOT would work in the coming months on outreach related to this project and coordinate with other agencies to develop a strategy for upcoming funding opportunities.

There was discussion of the status of the lease that CBS Studios has with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and the possibility of accommodating the bikeway. It was agreed that discussion would continue through Staff Focus Group Meetings and an update would be provided at a future RCC meeting.
The project was recommended as proposed by the Committee.

City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering: Los Angeles Riverfront Park Phase II

Jaime Contreras and Neil Drucker of the City's Proposition K Program presented the Los Angeles Riverfront Park Phase II project, a river-adjacent greenway that will include landscaping and irrigation, gateways, vehicle ramps, enriched paving, seating areas, ornamental fencing, and environmental education amenities, assuming that full-funding is obtained. The project will stretch one-half mile from Whitsett to Coldwater Canyon on the south bank of the Los Angeles River. Overall Prop. K improvements along the Studio City stretch of the LA River Greenway will total 1 mile, with landscaping and irrigation on both the north and south banks of the River.

There was general discussion about the bidding process for this project, and staff from the Bureau of Engineering confirmed that the north and south bank improvements will go forward and be bid as one project. A comment was received to look into the underlying easement where the parking structure is located on the north bank of the LA River. LACFCD will look into the area's leasing and easement status.

One comment was received regarding illegal dumping and trash problems behind commercial development adjacent to the greenway and the newly-proposed improvements. Bureau of Engineering, Prop K staff will look into the possibility of preventing this with the suggestions of eliminating parking on that side and placing a fence of at least 6 feet on that side to keep trash off the greenway and out of the River. J. Contreras confirmed that Prop. K funds cannot be used for street or parking relocation; coordination with LADOT will be necessary to determine if there are funds available for this.

The project was recommended as proposed by the committee.

Agency Updates

- LACFCD:
  - The ribbon-cutting and opening celebration for the Lake-Alameda Greenway, a $1.4 million dollar project along the Burbank/Western Channel between Victory Boulevard and Alameda Avenue, was held in late 2011 (G. Hildebrand)
  - The conceptual designs for the Strathern Wetlands Park have been completed; the drawings and plans are currently being done. The construction of Phase I will occur between summer 2014 and summer 2016 and Phase II will be constructed from fall 2017 through spring 2019. The LACFCD is partnering with the City of Los Angeles on this project (G. Hildebrand)
  - Design is moving forward for the Los Angeles River Headwaters Project, a greenway enhancement project between Owensmouth Avenue and Mason Avenue, which was awarded $1.9 million through the California River Parkways Grant Program. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2012 (G. Hildebrand)
  - Plans were recently completed for the Tujunga Wash Ecosystem Restoration project, which is in its second phase, involving extension of the naturalized stream further north on the west bank of the channel; both banks will be heavily planted with native trees, shrubs, and perennials, and pedestrian pathways will be constructed. The project is being completed in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers (G. Hildebrand)
  - The North Valleyheart River Walk project has plans in progress and final design will be complete in mid 2012 with construction anticipated in early 2013 (G. Hildebrand)

Update:
LACFCD right of way adjacent to the Sportsmen’s Lodge Hotel was quitclaimed for their parking lot. Alongside CBS Studios, LACFCD only has easement rights; while at Universal Studios the LACFCD possesses right of way in combination of fee and easement in conjunction with a current lease agreement with Universal.
• **US Army Corps of Engineers:**
  o The Corps is working to get funding for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for FY12. Major General Temple from USACE headquarters will be visiting LA and taking a tour of the LA River on January 13, 2012 (D. Sulzer)

• **City of Los Angeles:**
  o Secretary Salazar from the US Department of the Interior will be visiting on January 12th at North Atwater Park to make an announcement regarding President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Pilot program of which the Los Angeles River was selected (C. Armstrong)
  o The Elmer Paseo Project has been awarded $800,000 in Prop. O funds to add surface swales with underground capacity to capture, treat, and recharge stormwater as well as incorporate native and drought-tolerant plants (A. Hagekhalil)
  o The Glenoaks/Sunland Stormwater Capture project, also funded by Prop. O, will capture stormwater from the 300 acre drainage area that floods the intersection of Glenoaks and Sunland Boulevards and divert it to dry wells and a series of bioswales (A. Hagekhalil)
  o LADWP is completing Phase I of the Headworks Project, which will install a new reservoir tank; Phase II, comprised of restored natural wetlands with hiking trails, streams, and natural landscaping will be completed in 2017 (D. Pettijohn)
  o The North Atwater Park Expansion project will have its grand opening on April 12th (C. Armstrong)
  o May 9, 2012 is the 5-year anniversary of the LARRMP (C. Armstrong)
  o The LA River Improvement Overlay (LA-RIO) District will be going before the City Planning Commission soon, followed by City Council consideration, pending approval (C. Armstrong)
  o Arroyo Seco Bikeway: The County is lead on this project. There is an issue with contaminated soil onsite. Please be aware of this project. (J. Sourial, Council District 1)
  o A memorial is planned for Scott Wilson on January 29th in Eagle Rock (J. Sourial)
  o Low Impact Design (LID) ordinance will be in effect in May 2012 (A. Hagekhalil)
  o Work is ongoing on the Humboldt Neighborhood Stormwater Greenway, which is currently in the design phase. Construction is expected to be started in January 2013 and completed in January 2014. Project elements include stream daylighting and infiltration with bioswales, and native vegetation with the creation of a park. This project will help support enhanced native habitats along Los Angeles River corridor that feature signage, trails, passive recreation, and open plazas. To find out more, please visit www.lastormwater.org (A. Hagekhalil)
  o Manchester Neighborhood Greenway (near Manchester and Figueroa in South LA area), is currently in the design phase (50% design plans) to be completed in June 2012. Construction is expected to start in January 2013 and be completed by August 2013. Project elements include infiltration using porous pavement, bioswales, and native vegetation to provide a green walkway. The green walkway will provide safe pedestrian access for residents (A. Hagekhalil)
  o Moving forward, the River Cooperation Committee’s website will include a list of the Committee’s previous project recommendations (G. Moore)

**Next Meeting**
- The next RCC meeting will be held on Monday, July 9, 2012. (Los Angeles City Hall 200 N. Spring Street, Room TBD)

**Action Items**
- The LACFCD and the City of Los Angeles will provide the comments expressed to the projects’ proponents.

Comments regarding this meeting summary should be directed to Carol Armstrong, Carol.Armstrong@lacity.org, Michael Affeldt, Michael.Affeldt@lacity.org, and Megan Whalen, Megan.Whalen@lacity.org.

For more information about the LA River Cooperation Committee, please visit: www.lariver.org/rcc.