

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 287**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Holden**

February 2, 2017

---

---

An act to add Section 622.2 to the Streets and Highways Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 287, as introduced, Holden. State Highway Route 710: advisory committee.

Existing law provides that the Department of Transportation has full possession and control of all state highways and associated property. Existing law designates and describes state highway routes, including Route 710 in the County of Los Angeles.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, to establish the I-710 Gap Corridor Transit Study Zone Advisory Committee, with a specified membership, to study the alternatives considered in the State Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact Review and other transit options to improve travel in, and environmental impacts of, the I-710 Corridor project area, along with alternatives not considered by the environmental review. The bill would require the advisory committee, by January 1, 2019, to make recommendations in a report to the Legislature, the Department of Transportation, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority on the most appropriate and feasible alternative in the I-710 Corridor project area to improve air quality and public health, improve traffic safety, modernize the freeway design, address

projected traffic volumes, and address projected growth in population and employment and activities related to goods movement.

The bill would require the department to implement the alternative recommended by the advisory committee, if appropriate and feasible, but would prohibit the advisory committee from considering or recommending, and would prohibit the department from implementing, a freeway tunnel alternative. The bill would make legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The I-710 Corridor is a critical artery to the state, region,  
4 and Los Angeles County for the transportation of goods and  
5 passengers by connecting the county’s ports to distribution centers  
6 and railways.

7 (b) The earliest iterations of I-710, former State Highway Routes  
8 7 and 167, were designed in 1933 to improve north-south mobility  
9 in Los Angeles County extending from the harbors of San Pedro  
10 and Long Beach to the San Gabriel Valley.

11 (c) I-710 incorporated these former routes into the Interstate  
12 Highway System that was constructed in the 1950s and 1960s,  
13 specifically to connect the Port of Long Beach to the industrial  
14 center of Los Angeles, facilitating the transport of manufactured  
15 goods to the port.

16 (d) Construction of the I-710 freeway has terminated at the I-10  
17 freeway, stopping short of its intended connections and  
18 terminations.

19 (e) There are seven east-west freeways and seven north-south  
20 freeways in the Los Angeles Basin critical to the transportation of  
21 goods and people in the highly urbanized county.

22 (f) I-710 is one of two north-south freeways that terminate in  
23 the San Gabriel Valley and do not connect to other freeways,  
24 forcing traffic onto local streets or other freeways.

25 (g) The residents and commuters of the I-710 Corridor are facing  
26 elevated levels of diesel particulate emissions and are experiencing

1 traffic congestion, high truck volumes, and high accident rates on  
2 a daily basis.

3 (h) The United States Environmental Protection Agency has  
4 stated the South Coast Air Basin, which includes the I-710  
5 Corridor, is an extreme ozone nonattainment area and a  
6 nonattainment area for small airborne particulate matter between  
7 10 and 2.5 microns, which is commonly attributed to vehicle traffic  
8 and contributes to high rates of cancer.

9 (i) The highest levels of these air toxins in the Los Angeles  
10 Basin are found along the I-710 corridor.

11 (j) The significant residential and commercial development that  
12 has taken place along the I-710 Corridor since its initial  
13 construction, along with the negative environmental impacts, have  
14 caused significant concerns for local communities.

15 (k) In 1998 the Federal Highway Administration published a  
16 record of decision approving a surface freeway with six mixed-flow  
17 lanes and two high-occupancy vehicle lanes to close the 6.2-mile  
18 gap between I-10 and I-210, crossing through Los Angeles,  
19 Alhambra, South Pasadena, and Pasadena, but later rescinded it  
20 due to litigation and community concerns.

21 (l) The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has conducted  
22 feasibility studies of alternatives to the surface freeway route  
23 including alternative freeway routes, light rail construction, bus  
24 system improvements, and tunnels to mitigate the environmental  
25 impacts of air toxins due to vehicle traffic.

26 (m) In 2015, Caltrans and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
27 Transportation Authority completed an environmental impact  
28 report, the State Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact  
29 Review, that studied the impacts of these alternatives, including  
30 a cost-benefit analysis, that evaluated the travel time benefits,  
31 capital expenditures, vehicle operating costs, system operations  
32 and maintenance costs, safety effects, emissions effects,  
33 employment benefits, and residual values.

34 (n) There continues to be significant community and local  
35 government concern about the safety and efficacy of the proposed  
36 tunnel alternative and its \$2 billion to \$3 billion cost.

37 (o) Caltrans states that the purpose of the I-710 Corridor  
38 Northbound Freeway Project is to improve air quality and public  
39 health, improve traffic safety, modernize the freeway design,  
40 address projected traffic volumes, and address projected growth

1 in population and in employment and activities related to goods  
2 movement.

3 (p) An advisory committee should be established by Caltrans,  
4 in consultation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
5 Transportation Authority, to resolve the transportation problems  
6 caused by the I-710 gap while fully considering the concerns of  
7 local communities.

8 (q) The advisory committee should review the transit options  
9 proposed in the State Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact  
10 Review and also consider all other alternatives, other than a tunnel,  
11 including alternatives not included in the review, and recommend  
12 a proposed solution.

13 SEC. 2. (a) The Department of Transportation, in consultation  
14 with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation  
15 Authority, shall establish the I-710 Gap Corridor Transit Study  
16 Zone Advisory Committee to study the alternatives considered in  
17 the State Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact Review  
18 and other transit options to improve travel in, and environmental  
19 impacts of, the I-710 Corridor project area.

20 (b) The advisory committee shall consist of all of the following:

21 (1) Three representatives of the Department of Transportation.

22 (2) Two representatives of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
23 Transportation Authority, appointed by the authority.

24 (3) Two representatives each from the City of Alhambra, the  
25 City of Los Angeles, the City of Pasadena, and the City of South  
26 Pasadena, appointed by the city.

27 (4) Two members of the Assembly that represent the I-710  
28 Corridor or their designees, appointed by the Speaker of the  
29 Assembly.

30 (5) Two members of the Senate that represent the I-710 Corridor  
31 or their designees, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

32 (c) Participation on, and appointment of members to, the  
33 advisory committee by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
34 Transportation Authority and the cities shall be at the option of  
35 each local agency. Members of the advisory committee shall serve  
36 without compensation that is specific to serving on the committee.  
37 The Department of Transportation shall provide staff to the  
38 advisory committee.

39 (d) On or before January 1, 2019, the advisory committee shall  
40 make recommendations in a report to the Legislature, the

1 Department of Transportation, and the Los Angeles County  
2 Metropolitan Transportation Authority on the most appropriate  
3 and feasible alternative in the I-710 Corridor Gap to improve air  
4 quality and public health, improve traffic safety, modernize the  
5 freeway design, address projected traffic volumes, and address  
6 projected growth in population and employment and activities  
7 related to goods movement. In conducting its study, the advisory  
8 committee shall take into consideration the input of residents living  
9 in the I-710 Corridor project area. The committee shall consider  
10 development of open space, light rail options, and traffic calming  
11 options, and may consider alternatives not considered in the State  
12 Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact Review. The report  
13 to the Legislature shall be submitted pursuant to Section 9795 of  
14 the Government Code.

15 (e) The advisory committee shall not consider or recommend  
16 the freeway tunnel alternative proposed for implementation in the  
17 State Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact Review, and  
18 the department shall not proceed with implementation of that  
19 alternative. The advisory committee shall have no authority to  
20 make recommendations regarding the properties acquired for the  
21 I-710 freeway.

22 (f) If appropriate and feasible, the Department of Transportation  
23 shall implement the alternative recommended by the advisory  
24 committee in its report submitted pursuant to subdivision (d) in a  
25 manner consistent with applicable laws.

26 SEC. 3. Section 622.2 is added to the Streets and Highways  
27 Code, to read:

28 622.2. The department shall not implement a freeway tunnel  
29 for Route 710 between Route 10 and Route 210.