

Downtown Los Angeles US 101 Cap Concept Study

Project Summary

Caltrans District 7 engaged MIG to collaborate with area stakeholders and EDAW in collecting stakeholder input on a proposal to cap US 101 in downtown Los Angeles. The program utilized an international group of student interns recruited and managed by EDAW. The internship program process was designed to engage stakeholders in a community-based visioning process, developing a range of ideas and scenarios for an innovative, context-sensitive urban design concept.



Outreach Methods

- Stakeholder interviews: elected officials, community leaders, city officials
- *Los Angeles Times* Op-Ed
- Extended outreach through Neighborhood Councils
- Web communication: blogs



Public Involvement Tools

Neighborhood Meetings

EDAW staff made efforts to engage certain neighborhood representatives, such as a representative of El Pueblo and the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council. These representatives were recruited to provide resource presentations as well as critique student products.

“On-the-Street” Interviews

Interns spent one day in the field interviewing residents and business owners from Chinatown and Boyle Heights, whose comments were then integrated into the final presentation.

Lectures and Panel Discussions

During lectures and panel discussions, private, non-profit, and public agency representatives with expertise in the history of Los Angeles, historic resources, urban design, local demographics, and other applicable topics were brought in to share their knowledge regarding the project area and surrounding context. Experts then responded to questions from interns.

Environmental Justice Community Involvement

The community outreach component of the internship program for the Downtown Los Angeles US 101 Cap Concept Study was intended to “...energize the efforts of stakeholders and city agencies and engage the residents and business owners of adjacent neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Angelino Heights, El Pueblo, Boyle Heights, Civic Center and Little Tokyo...”

In developing and designing the program of activities for the internship program, it was apparent that EDAW had done considerable “groundwork” in meeting with elected officials, city officials and their staffs to identify potential issues, opportunities, and topics for discussion. EDAW staff also made efforts to engage certain neighborhood representatives, such as a representative of El Pueblo and the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council. These representatives were recruited to provide resource presentations as well as critique student products.



Results

The conceptual plans produced by interns, along with MIG’s extended outreach recommendations, may be used in cooperation with the City of Los Angeles to further develop the 101 Freeway Cap concept.



Deliverables

Meeting Summaries
Conceptual Plan
Final Project Report