



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Los Angeles**

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

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**Contact:** Barb Solish  
213-978-0741

### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA AND COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR ANNOUNCE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR NEW 6TH STREET BRIDGE**

*Design committee will ensure community is involved in redesign process*

**LOS ANGELES** – Mayor Villaraigosa was joined today at a community meeting in Boyle Heights by Councilmembers José Huizar and Ed Reyes, community members, leaders in architecture, engineering, and river preservation to announce an international design competition for the redesign of the 6th Street Bridge.

“The 6th Street Bridge design competition will make sure the new bridge reflects our City’s spirit and style,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “As we go through this process, we will make sure the community is informed and involved every step of the way.”

Last November, the City Council approved the redesign and replacement of the 80 year old bridge. Elements of the current bridge have cracked and deteriorated over the past 80 years due to an internal chemical reaction called Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR) and it is subject to failure during a major earthquake. The City is taking this risk into its own hands by undertaking the reconstruction of the bridge now, before any catastrophic events require emergency response.

As the Councilmember for 14th District, which includes the 6th Street Bridge, Councilmember Huizar worked with the Bureau of Engineering to ensure that substantial community outreach and input took place before ushering in the Council vote in November to replace the bridge as the safest and most cost-effective alternative.

“The 6th Street Bridge is one of the City’s iconic landmarks and if we must replace it, we need to do it on a grand, international scale,” said Councilmember José Huizar. “The bridge design we ultimately select should honor the original’s

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history by ushering us into the future with a new iconic bridge. We want to create a bridge that will make all of Los Angeles proud.”

The new bridge will preserve 6th Street as a viable east-west link between Boyle Heights and Downtown Los Angeles, reduce the vulnerability of the bridge during major earthquakes, and bring the bridge up to current highway and safety standards. The current bridge fails to meet standards because of its inadequate roadway width, out of specification bridge and approach railings and approach railing ends, poor roadway alignment, and out of specification geometric and seismic detail design.

"We are excited to get started on such an iconic, meaningful project for the City of Los Angeles," said Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer. "This international call for qualifications and the design competition will ensure that we end up with the best possible project for the community."

The international competition will solicit designs from across the globe in two phases. First, project teams will be asked to submit qualifications. Second, the Bureau of Engineering and Caltrans officials, with input from the community, will choose a select few teams to advance into the design competition. The final firm is expected to be chosen this fall.

"Bridges, like national monuments, can symbolize the achievements of a culture," said Hsinming Fung, Director of Academic Programs at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc). "But more than that, they can embody the energy, the vitality, and the creativity which make those achievements possible."

To ensure the final design selection gives all stakeholders a voice, the Mayor and City Council will form a "Design Aesthetic Advisory Committee" that will include voices from professionals in the engineering, architecture and urban planning professions, as well as residents of the neighborhood, local business representatives, and river advocates.

"Though we will certainly miss the old 6th Street Bridge, this new bridge can complement its historic peers and represent a new era of optimistic growth and change for downtown Los Angeles," said Alex Ward, Chairman of the Friends of the Los Angeles River. "This bridge can be a landmark, glowing at night like a beacon, a tourist attraction, a catalyst for economic growth, a strong new link between downtown and Boyle Heights, and a route for pedestrian and bicycle access to the River."

The \$401 million redesign and construction of the 6th Street Bridge will support almost 5,000 jobs and is the largest of the Bureau of Engineering's \$1 billion bridge portfolio. The majority of the funding for the 6th Street Bridge project comes from the Federal Highway Bridge Program. The remaining money is a combination of State Prop 1B funds and local matching through Measure R and Prop C. Construction is expected to begin by early 2015. The target year for opening is 2018.

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