

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

APPENDIX B – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

B.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

In order to facilitate effective public participation throughout the environmental study process, a Public Involvement Plan was formulated before the environmental study process began. The Public Involvement Plan was developed to allow for flexibility and continued refinement as the project continues through planning and into design, construction and operation. The plan includes the following tasks:

- Establish a steering committee and hold regular meetings;
- Coordinate with the steering committee and conduct agency public outreach efforts;
- Hold public scoping meetings, public open houses, and hearings; and
- Gather and maintain a project database into which all electronic records, transcripts, and correspondence relevant to the project will be logged, including responses to comments on project documents (such as the Draft EIS) and other comments.

B.1.1 Steering Committee and Project Team Members

For project scoping through the selection of the Preferred Alternative and the release of the Draft EIS, a project steering committee was established to facilitate a high level of communication between the project team, participating cities, and stakeholder representatives. The objective of the steering committee was to foster mutual understanding of the project among the local communities. This was accomplished by holding steering committee meetings approximately every one to two months from November 2001 to November 2002. The meetings helped keep the members informed of the project’s progress and provided an opportunity to gather feedback from the committee. Project steering committee representatives from the WFRC, the UTA, and the cities of West Valley City and Taylorsville took the lead in administering the public involvement program and headed public outreach efforts. The responsibility for ensuring the cities’ participation in this effort was shared by WFRC and UTA. **Table B-1** includes a list of steering committee members. **Table B-2** shows the meeting dates and major topics of discussion.

Table B-1: West Valley LRT Corridor Steering Committee Members (For Efforts Leading to the Selection of a Preferred Alternatives and the Draft EIS)

Members	Representing
Jeff Hawker	West Valley City
Joseph Moore	West Valley City
Mark McGrath	Taylorsville City
Toshiharu Kano	Taylorsville City
Karen Mayne	At Large
Angelo Papastamos	UDOT

Members	Representing
Walt Steinvorth	UDOT
Bruce Talbot	South Salt Lake City
Gordon Storrs	Salt Lake Community College
Mike Jensen	Salt Lake County Council
Barry Banks	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Hal Johnson	UTA
Steve Greene	UTA
Joe Racosky	URS
Rick Pilgrim	URS
Pat Rothacher	URS

Table B-2: West Valley LRT Corridor Steering Committee Meetings

Meeting Date	Major Discussion Items
November 26, 2001	Purpose of the Steering Committee Project overview Issues identification
January 23, 2002	Initial ideas Initial alternatives
March 20, 2002	Final Purpose and Need Alternatives evaluation Initial screening
May 8, 2002	Final alternatives screening
June 19, 2002	Proposed locally preferred alternative (LPA)
September 18, 2002	Draft of Chapters 1-5 of the Draft EIS
October 30, 2002	Administrative Draft EIS

The steering committee was integral to the alternatives development and evaluation process by providing direction to the project. The project team initially combined ideas and concepts from scoping into design options that could potentially satisfy the project's purpose and need. These design options, plus the best ideas from prior studies and the EIS alternatives required by NEPA, were combined into a list of initial alternatives provided to the steering committee. At the March 2002 meeting, the steering committee completed an initial screening (evaluation and ranking) of each initial alternative, and variation thereof,

by using the criteria and methods described in **Section 2.2**. The purpose of this step was to eliminate any alternatives that did not meet the purpose and need or that had “fatal flaws.” This also produced a shorter list for more detailed evaluation and public review. The result of initial screening was a set of detailed alternatives for the corridor. Each alternative satisfied the purpose and need and was considered a viable alternative. On April 18, 2002, all detailed alternatives were presented to the public for review and comment during an open house at West Valley City Hall. Public comments were compiled and considered during the final screening process, which took place in May 2002. During final screening, the steering committee utilized the same evaluation criteria used in screening the initial alternatives. They also considered public comments and a more detailed set of technical data and facts in selecting a single Build Alternative, with several variations, from the detailed alternatives list. The steering committee’s evaluation, consideration, and direction were vital in carrying out the environmental study process and in guiding the ongoing public involvement and project decision-making. These efforts culminated with the identification of the Preferred Alternative and the release of the Draft EIS.

With the release of the DEIS in June 2006, the project advanced into more detailed engineering and environmental efforts (Final ESR), which are focused on the Preferred Alternative. Current project team members are:

Greg Thorpe, UTA
Hal Johnson, UTA
Jim Webb, UTA
Mary DeLoretto, UTA
John Janson, West Valley City
Larry Gardner, City of South Salt Lake
Ned Hacker, WFRC

B.1.2 Public Outreach efforts

Public outreach events for the project have included community group meetings, open houses, and public hearings. The community has been contacted in numerous ways, including through a range of traditional media, and by direct outreach efforts such as the use of door hangers to notify all residents and businesses on property adjacent to the corridor. Media advisories were used including the distribution of press releases, radio broadcasts (question & answer format), and newspaper articles.

B.1.2.1 Mailing Lists

UTA has developed and maintained a project mailing list specifically for the West Valley LRT project. The main intent for the mailing list was to send any relevant project information, including open house invitations and newsletters to all interested and affected stakeholders or community members. This includes lists of individuals and businesses and property owners along the corridor, as well as neighborhood and business association leaders. The mailing list also includes any individual or organization who has stated an interest in the project as a result of the project’s public outreach tools, such as contact information acquired from sign-in sheets at public meetings and messages left on the project hotline, via the interactive website, or in response to requests for comments on the Draft EIS. The project mailing list and e-mailing list contains more than 400 contacts.

B.1.2.3 Newsletters and Brochures

A project newsletter was distributed at three key milestones during the project, and brochures for the project have been developed to accompany public meetings and workshops. The newsletters provided timely updates to key audiences and the general public. The newsletters described the status of the study, announced public participation opportunities, and solicited feedback from readers. The project team

produced the newsletters with assistance from steering committee members. The newsletters were distributed to steering committee members for circulation among their respective constituents. Steering committee members representing the cities mailed the newsletters to interested citizens, leaders, and community group members already on their project mailing lists, as well as displaying them at information centers and other forums within their communities. The newsletters were also distributed at the scoping meetings, open houses, and public hearings. Newsletters are included in the Public Involvement Notebook. **Table B-3** is a summary of project newsletter content.

Table B-3: Project Newsletter Content

Type of Document	Date	Project Phase	Project Information
Scoping Booklet	January 2002	Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project overview • Project schedule • Long-range transit system plan map • Study area map • Analysis of alternatives • Public scoping meeting details and announcements • How to become involved • Contact information • Local project sponsors
Project Update	April 2002	Alternatives Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project overview • Project schedule • (Final) LRT and BRT alternatives map • (Final) TRAX connections variations map • Alternatives development • Public open houses held • LRT and BRT definitions • How to become involved • Contact information • Local project sponsors
Project Newsletter	August 2002	Proposed Locally Preferred Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed LPA (text and map) • Project schedule • Project purpose and other alternatives considered • Contact information
Project Brochure	July 2006	Release of Draft EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project overview • Preferred Alternative • Request for Public Comments on Draft EIS • Next Steps

B.1.2.4 Internet Access

The project team developed an interactive website, which provided information on the ongoing progress for the project. The website has been updated at key project milestones, including the release of the Draft EIS in the summer of 2006. An interactive comment form was available at the website, and direct links to the WFRC, UTA, and URS web pages were also incorporated. Public email access was maintained throughout the project duration. The project website included the following information:

- Project overview
- Project sponsors
- How to become involved
- Discussion forum
- Links to WFRC, UTA, and URS websites
- Project schedule
- Meeting announcements
- How to provide input
- Comment form
- Accommodations for special needs
- Project status
- Newsletters/Updates
- Alignment drawings
- Project hotline phone number
- Project team contact information

The project's e-mail address (rideuta@rideuta.com) was published on project correspondence. The public was encouraged to forward ideas and request information via computer. The project website is found at www.rideuta.com. Visitors to the website can provide comments or make requests directly through the project website or by e-mail.

B.1.2.5 Telephone Hotline

In early stages of the project, the project team managed a project hotline that was advertised and available 24 hours a day. Calls were answered with a pre-recorded message that was updated as necessary. The telephone hotline was used to receive and respond to concerns, inquiries, and requests for information from affected citizens and others. The project hotline was checked for messages daily. The name of the caller, date of call, and comments were logged into a project database (see **Section B.1.4** below). Questions concerning project involvement and open house dates were received via the project hotline. Samples of telephone hotline messages are included in the Public Involvement Notebook; however, due to limited use of the hotline, the hotline was discontinued in favor of providing direct contacts for project team members.

B.1.2.6 Speaking Engagements/Workshops

The project team has used interactive presentations to outside organizations to relay project information and gather public input throughout the project. This process has included steering committee members who coordinated and scheduled presentations to civic, business, neighborhood, and other interested groups. Other project staff have also met with business and neighborhood groups at several occasions throughout the project.

B.1.2.7 News Releases/Briefings

The project has used television, radio, and newspaper to inform, educate, and involve the public in the project. Area newspapers, radio, and television stations have received news releases, and steering committee members representing the cities, UTA, and WFRC have conducted media briefings as appropriate to update members of the media on important project milestones. Community newspapers and newsletters have also been used to publicize upcoming project events, such as public meetings. **Table B-4** includes information on public outreach efforts.

Table B-4: Public Outreach Efforts

Date	Method	Message
12/2001	Scoping Meeting Notice in Newspaper (<i>Deseret News</i> and <i>Salt Lake Tribune</i>)	Official notice of public meeting
1/1002	Notice in cities' water bills	Invitation to attend light rail scoping meeting
1/2002	Notice posted in cities' Chamber newsletter (ChamberWest)	Invitation to attend light rail scoping meeting
4/2002	Radio program – Barry Banks and Hal Johnson KCPW 88.3 & 105.1 FM April 10 from 10-11 a.m.	Westside Transit Corridors DEIS and April Open Houses
4/2002	Public Open House Notice in newspaper (<i>Deseret News</i> and <i>Salt Lake Tribune</i>)	Official notice of public meeting
4/2002	Notice posted in cities' Chamber newsletter (ChamberWest)	Invitation to attend light rail scoping meeting
4/2002	Notice posted in cities' water bills	Invitation to attend light rail scoping meeting
8/2002	Public hearing notice posted in the <i>Salt Lake Tribune</i> and <i>Deseret News</i>	Official notice of public hearing
8/2002	Postcard mailing to Chesterfield residents	Personalized invitation to the Chesterfield neighborhood to discuss the WVC-T light rail line
8/2002	Press release submitted to local papers	Announcement of open house and public hearing
8/2002	Notice in UTA Connects	Invitation to UTA employees to attend public hearings
8/2002	Article in the <i>Salt Lake Tribune</i>	Invitation to attend Chesterfield neighborhood meeting and the WVC-T public hearing
8/2002	Article in <i>Deseret News</i>	Invitation to attend open house and public hearing

Date	Method	Message
8/2002	Article in <i>Deseret News</i>	Second invitation to attend open house and public hearing
8/2002	Article in <i>Deseret News</i>	Recap of public hearings

B.1.2.8 Announcements

An announcement for each scoping meeting, open house, public hearings, the Draft EIS, and this Final ESR has been sent to contacts on the mailing list and e-mailing list. The information was also provided on the project website and hotline. Announcements on the public hearings and meetings have also been placed on the doors of homeowners adjacent to the proposed alignment or provided through direct mailings to addresses along the corridor.

B.1.2.9 Agency Coordination

A number of government agencies and boards will be responsible for project permitting and approvals, and others have ongoing interests in coordinating with the transit project. These agencies have been invited to participate in the project from the agency scoping meeting held at project initiation, as well as all community events and other public meetings. The Draft EIS was also distributed to these agencies.

The following agencies have been consulted regarding the progress of this project:

- Federal Transit Administration
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Utah Geological Survey
- Utah Division of Air Quality
- Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Division of Water Resources
- Federal Highway Administration
- Division of Water Quality
- State Parks and Recreation
- Utah Open Lands
- Division of Wildlife Resources
- Division of State History
- Division of Emergency Response and Remediation
- EPA Region 8
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Utah Department of Agriculture
- Utah Heritage Foundation
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Dept. of Natural Resources Energy and Resource Planning
- State Lands and Forestry
- Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Envision Utah
- Division of Water Rights
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation/Trails Program

B.1.2.10 Coordination with Other Planning Initiatives

UDOT Region 2 commenced an EIS to study proposed improvements in the 3500 South corridor from 2700 West to 8400 West. By agreement between UDOT and the project sponsors, these two projects were closely coordinated. Coordination with other UDOT or city projects (such as the SR-201, Bangerter Highway to Jordan River, EA), and the gathering of city planning documents, have also been undertaken. A representative from UDOT sits on the project steering committee and its successor, the technical steering committee.

B.1.3 Public Scoping Meetings, Open Houses, and Hearings

Public meetings have been held at two key milestones to disseminate information to the public and obtain public input. A public hearing was held to obtain feedback on the proposed locally preferred alternative (LPA) in 2002, and a public meeting and a community meeting were held for the Draft EIS in 2006. Translators (Spanish-English) were available, although not requested, for public scoping and public hearings/meetings. The Draft EIS public meeting notice was also provided/published in Spanish.

Public Events for Public Scoping and Project Development up to the Draft EIS. A series of public scoping meetings were held in January 2002 to solicit comments on the issues and alternatives that should be evaluated in the environmental document. This scoping process was initiated by WFRC and UTA with the FTA. Regional, state, and federal agencies, interest groups, businesses, affected communities, and the public at large also participated in the scoping process.

Public open houses, held during the early phases of the project leading to the identification of the LPA, provided the opportunity for all interested individuals and groups to learn about the project and give input to the project team. Public open houses helped the project team understand community values and priorities, as well as identify critical issues. Open houses early in the process established project awareness and enabled the project team to develop alternatives and evaluation criteria appropriate to the project location. **Table B-5** includes a schedule of public meetings.

Table B-5: Public Meetings from Scoping through 2002

Type of Meeting	Attendees	Date, Time, Location
Scoping	40	Wednesday, January 9, 2002. 5 to 8 p.m. UTA Meadowbrook Facility, 3600 South 700 West, Salt Lake City
Scoping	20	Saturday, January 12, 2002. 9 a.m. to 11a.m. West Valley City Hall, 3600 Constitution Blvd (2700 West)
Open House	100	Thursday, April 18, 2002. 4 to 8 p.m. West Valley City Hall, 3600 Constitution Blvd (2700 West)
Chesterfield Neighborhood Meeting	50	Tuesday, August, 13, 2002. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Redwood Community Center
Open House & Public Hearing	50	Wednesday, August 14, 2002. 4 to 8 p.m. Open House began at 4:00 and Public Hearing began at 6:30 p.m. West Valley City Hall, 3600 Constitution Blvd (2700 West)

The purpose of the scoping meetings was to solicit ideas and concepts for project alternatives. This input was recorded for the steering committee’s consideration. The project team combined the ideas and concepts from scoping into design options that could potentially satisfy the project’s purpose and need. These design options, along with the best ideas from prior studies and the EIS alternatives required by NEPA, were combined into a list of initial alternatives.

Using the criteria discussed in **Section 2.2**, the project steering committee completed initial screening of the alternatives and developed a list of detailed alternatives. The detailed alternatives were presented to the public for review and comment at the open house in April 2002. Comments were recorded and

considered during the final alternatives screening process in May 2002. During the final alternatives screening process, the steering committee used these comments in selecting a top Build Alternative.

The top Build Alternative was presented to the public for review and comment at the open house and public hearing in August 2002. A public hearing transcript was also developed, recording all of the comments provided at the hearing.

Comment forms, newsletters, and a handout listing ways to provide comments were distributed at the public meetings. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the environmental study process and to provide comments in the following ways:

- Talk to a project team member
- Complete a comment form during the public meeting, or take a comment form home, fill it out, and mail it to the project team
- Write comment(s) on flipcharts provided at the public meeting
- Provide a statement at the public hearing
- Tape record a verbal comment with the UTA representative present at each public meeting
- Provide suggestions directly on the project maps using acetate and markers
- Visit the project website and complete a comment form online
- Join in the discussion forum on the project website
- E-mail a project team member

Comments from the public meetings were reviewed and considered by the steering committee members and project team members.

B.1.4 Project Record Keeping

The project team has gathered and maintained a project database for electronic records, transcripts, and correspondence relevant to the public involvement process. Project files include hard copy records, transcripts, and correspondence. In addition, the following documentation activities were undertaken:

- Comments and letters received at the public meetings or via telephone calls, e-mail, regular mail, or other means have been compiled in a comments log in the database for reference throughout the project.
Both comments and responses were taken into account when assessing impacts, evaluating alternatives, and making decisions. The public hearing was formally documented by a court reporter. The complete report was compiled and is maintained at each project office for the benefit of the public and regulatory officials and for documentation of the public involvement process.

B.2 COMMENTS DURING PUBLIC SCOPING AND PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE DRAFT EIS

Individual comments received during public comment periods were noted and divided into manageable categories. A representative summary of comments received from public scoping and the initial public meetings for the LPA are provided below in **Table B-6**.

Agency coordination letters are included in **Appendix E**.

Table B-6: Representative Sample of Major Comment Categories from Public Scoping and Public Meetings Up to the Draft EIS

No.	Comment
1	Provide access to Salt Lake Community College
2	Need more bus service
3	How will this affect properties?
4	TRAX would help alleviate traffic congestion in the valley
5	Reduce impacts on wildlife, natural areas, and wetlands
6	Are there ways other than TRAX to solve transportation problems?
7	Avoid neighborhoods as much as possible, keep alignment in business areas
8	Concerned about impacts on neighborhoods
9	Concerned about safety of children and pets
10	Live in a quiet rural setting, want to keep it that way
11	Include pedestrian and bicycle amenities
12	Concerned about noise and vibration
13	Do not want a lot of trains at one station – keep it simple
14	Do not want school children to have to cross tracks
15	Concerned about security at stations and Park n Rides
16	Concerned about train speed – too fast through neighborhoods
17	Will cause further congestion at E Center
18	Neighbors concerned about street closures

B.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FOR THE DRAFT EIS

The WFRC and UTA released the West Valley City LRT Project DEIS for public review on June 25, 2006. Public notices were published in local papers, on UTA's website, through ads in Spanish publications, and in ads and articles in group newsletters and other specialized media. UTA distributed posters and fliers to libraries and other public spaces, and placed notices throughout UTA's transit system, including on buses and at transit centers. UTA also sent out nearly 900 direct mailing pieces to stakeholders, residents located along the corridor, and others on the agency's mailing list, advertising the availability of the document.

Copies of the DEIS were made available at public facilities including area city halls and libraries and on UTA's website. In addition to sending the document to public libraries in the project area, UTA distributed nearly 75 other hard copies of the document to parties including local governments, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, elected officials, and public interest groups and organizations. The document on UTA's website was provided in PDF format and assembled to allow easy review of the written material and accompanying graphics.

The 45-day public comment period for the DEIS began on June 25, 2006, and ended on August 9, 2006. As part of the public comment period, UTA advertised and held a public meeting to provide additional opportunities for people to review project proposal and the DEIS, ask questions of agency staff, and to make formal comments. The meeting was held:

July 19th, 2006
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
West Valley City Hall
3600 S. Constitution Boulevard.
West Valley City, UT 84119

In addition to the advertised public meeting, UTA held a community meeting in the Chesterfield neighborhood. UTA sent out invitations to Chesterfield area residents, including people who had already expressed interest in the project and others on UTA's project mailing list. The Chesterfield meeting was held:

July 18th, 2006
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Redwood Recreation Center
3060 S. Redwood Road
West Valley City, UT 84119

Throughout the public comment period, UTA provided a number of ways for people to submit comments and provide input. At the meetings on July 18th and 19th, attendees could either write their comments or speak them to UTA staff, to be recorded and transcribed into the record. UTA also provided forms for recording preferences for the alternatives as well as to make more detailed comments.

In addition to accepting comments made at the public meetings, UTA provided the opportunity for people to make comments by email, through a project website, through UTA's regular website, by U.S. mail, or by phone. All comments received or postmarked by August 9th were accepted and are incorporated within the Final ESR.

Appendix D provides a summary of the comments that were received on the Draft EIS and then includes the full sets of comments and the project team's responses.