Chapter 8: Comments and Coordination

This chapter describes the program and activities for public involvement and agency coordination undertaken for the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit Project. These efforts were conducted between January 2008 and November 2010. Activities included an agency and public scoping period; comment booths; specialized meetings with agencies, interested stakeholders, city, and political leaders; public open house meetings; and distribution of a range of outreach materials. The public involvement and agency coordination effort for the project was designed to be inclusive, comprehensive, transparent, and continuous throughout the course of the project.

8.1 SCOPING

Lead Agencies

Joint lead agencies for the project originally included the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) was a cooperating agency. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) were invited to become lead agencies in May 2009 when it was determined that the 800 South interchange would be evaluated as part of the project. UTA, UDOT, and MAG coordinated as a project team every two weeks during the course of the project.

Notice of Intent

UTA and FTA prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Impact Statement (AA/EIS) for the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit Project. The NOI is a requirement of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.7. The NOI initiates the mandated scoping process for all EIS documents and provides a short description of the project, the proposed action, and preliminary alternatives. The NOI also describes the scoping process, identifies any upcoming formal public meetings that are associated with the project, and includes the name, address, and phone number of a contact person. Once the NOI text was approved for this project, FTA sent the NOI to its Washington, D.C., office for submittal to the Federal Register. The NOI was included in the December 21, 2007, Federal Register. (Initially it was determined that an EIS was the appropriate level of documentation for the project; however, based on preliminary findings it was later determined by FTA that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be adequate. An EIS could still be required at the conclusion of an EA if impacts are determined to be significant.

Scoping Activities

The purpose of the scoping period was to provide an early and open opportunity for both environmental resource agencies and the public to comment on the purpose and need of the proposed project, the alternatives to be considered, and the resources to be evaluated. Scoping was accomplished through a public scoping meeting; an agency scoping meeting; and through e-mail and hard copy correspondence with interested individuals, organizations, federal, state, and local agencies, and Native American tribes. The scoping period lasted for 45 days between December 2007 and February 2008.

Scoping Information Packet

A scoping packet was prepared and distributed shortly after the publication of the NOI. The scoping packet contained the following information:

- Project overview and study area map
- Preliminary schedule
- Details regarding the scoping and public input process
- Details regarding the environmental review process
- Preliminary purpose and need for the project
- Proposed alternatives
- Environmental resources being evaluated

This packet was posted on the project Website (www.provo-oremrapidtransit.info) and at the agency and public meetings held during the scoping period. It was also distributed via e-mail to agencies, organizations, and individuals who would potentially have an interest in the project.

Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) defines a cooperating agency as a federal agency other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or has special expertise with respect to environmental impacts involved in an EIS project. A state or local agency of similar qualifications may, by agreement with the lead agencies, also become a cooperating agency. Participating agencies are federal and non-federal agencies that might have an interest in the proposed project.

The lead agencies sent letters inviting federal, state, and local agencies to participate as cooperating or participating agencies at the beginning of the environmental review process. Letters sent to these agencies gave an overview of the project, described the preliminary purpose and need, defined the role of a cooperating or participating agency, and provided an invitation to the upcoming agency scoping meeting. Follow-up phone calls were made and e-mails were also sent to these agencies regarding the agency scoping meeting. Copies of the cooperating and participating agency letters and responses received are included in the Appendix.

Table 8-1: Cooperating and Participating Agencies lists the agencies invited to be a cooperating or participating agency on the project and each agency's response to the request.

Table 8- 1: Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Cooperating/ Participating	Agency	Response to Invitation to be a Cooperating/Participating Agency
Cooperating, then became Joint Lead	FHWA	Acceptance letter dated April 16, 2008 (Note: FHWA was later asked to become a joint lead agency; acceptance letter dated May 18, 2009)
Cooperating, then became Joint Lead	UDOT	Acceptance letter dated January 7, 2008 (Note: UDOT was later asked to become a joint lead agency; acceptance e-mail dated December 28, 2009)
Cooperating	MAG	Acceptance letter dated October 6, 2010.
Participating then became Cooperating	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Acceptance letter dated March 20, 2008 (Note: The Army Corps of Engineers was invited to become a cooperating agency in a letter dated January 24, 2011.)
Participating	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Acceptance letter dated February 25, 2008
Participating	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Acceptance letter dated February 29, 2008
Participating	Utah State Historic Preservation Office	Acceptance letter dated January 29, 2008
Participating	Utah Department of Natural Resources – Division of Water Rights	Acceptance e-mail dated February 4, 2008
Participating	City of Provo	Acceptance e-mail dated February 15, 2008
Participating	City of Orem	Acceptance e-mail dated February 8, 2008
Invited to be Participating	U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency	Declination letter dated February 12, 2008
Invited to be Participating	Utah Department of Natural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation	Declined project involvement during a phone conversation January 22, 2008
Invited to be Participating	Utah Department of Natural Resources – Division of Wildlife Resources	No response received

Tribal Coordination and Section 106 Consultation Invitations

The project area does not include tribal lands; however, Native American tribes could have an interest in the project due to the potential to discover historic resources. FTA sent scoping letters to Native American tribes. The lead agencies also sent scoping letters to local agencies with an interest in historic resources. These letters gave an overview of the project, described the preliminary purpose and need, and invited the tribe/agency to become a consulting party for the project as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as

amended. Provo City and Orem City accepted FTA's invitation to become a consulting party. Copies of the Section 106 letters and the responses received from Provo City and Orem City are included in the Appendix. Section 106 letters were sent to the following tribes/agencies:

- Orem Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
- Utah Heritage Foundation
- Utah Professional Archaeological Council
- Provo City (Certified Local Government Program)
- Utah County Commission
- Provo City Landmarks Commission
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation
- Ute Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Additional Agency Coordination

Coordination regarding the project was undertaken with additional agencies. These agencies were sent a letter that provided an overview of the project, an explanation of the preliminary purpose and need, and invited the agency to attend the scoping meeting or provide written comment during the project scoping period. Follow-up phone calls were made and e-mails were also sent to these agencies regarding the agency scoping meeting. Copies of letters sent to additional agencies are included in the Appendix. Letters were sent to the following agencies:

- President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Railroad Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality:
    - Division of Water Quality
    - Division of Air Quality
    - Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
    - Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
    - Division of Drinking Water
- Utah Department of Natural Resources:
    - Policy Group
    - Division of Water Resources
- Utah Bureau of Land Management
- Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget – Resource Development Coordinating Committee
- Utah Department of Public Safety

Agency Scoping Meeting

The agency scoping meeting for the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit Project was held on January 23, 2008, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Provo City Library. Agencies invited to this meeting are described in the Cooperating and Participating Agencies and Additional Agency Coordination sections above.

The following agencies attended the scoping meeting:

- UTA
- UDOT
- MAG
- Utah State Historic Preservation Office
- Utah Department of Natural Resources – Division of Drinking Water
- Orem City
- Provo City

Public Scoping Meeting

The public scoping meeting for the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit Project was held on January 24, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Provo City Library. A total of 12 non-project representatives attended this meeting. To advertise this meeting, a direct mailer was sent to residences in Provo and Orem on January 14, 2008. A door-to-door campaign targeting businesses along the project corridor was also undertaken on January 10 and January 11, 2008. Business owners were given a project information sheet and were encouraged to attend the public meeting.

The public meeting was held in an open house format. Boards with information on the project study area, project schedule, preliminary purpose and need, and conceptual alternatives (mode and alignment) were posted around the room. Meeting attendees were given a copy of the project information sheet. Comments were made on comment cards, on the scroll plots, or verbally to members of the project team.

8.2 PUBLIC OUTREACH AFTER SCOPING PERIOD

Technical and Policy Committees

Two committees—the technical committee and the policy committee—were established to ensure that Provo City, Orem City, Brigham Young University (BYU), Utah Valley University (UVU), and individuals representing local businesses and organizations were given the opportunity to meet with the project team to participate in focused collaboration. The purpose of the technical committee was to review technical deliverables, including modeling, for compliance with respective organizations' goals and regulations as well as to brainstorm innovative ideas.

Project sponsors selected policy-level representatives from the sponsor organizations and political leaders from the local communities to be part of the policy committee. This committee guided the overall project and reviewed conceptual level plans at key milestones before they were presented to the public. The technical and policy committees met at key milestones during the course of the project. Prior to August 2008, these committees met separately; however after that time, policy and technical committee meetings were combined.

Outreach Materials

A range of outreach materials were produced throughout the course of the project to keep target groups informed of the project and to notify them of opportunities to be involved.

Table 8-2: Outreach Materials describes the outreach materials produced for the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Table 8- 2: Outreach Materials

Date	Type	Description
January 2008	Scoping Information Packet	Provided information on the project scoping period and opportunities for public/agency comment
January 14, 2008	Project Mailer	Provided project overview, information on upcoming public scoping meeting, and contact information
Winter 2008	Information Sheet	Provided project overview, project history, project schedule, information on upcoming public scoping meeting, and contact information
March 31, 2008	Press Release	Provided information regarding BYU comment booth
March 28, 2008	Press Release	Provided information regarding UVU comment booth (see Table 8-3 for additional information)
May 27, 2008	Press Release	Provided information regarding Orem Open House (see Table 8-3 for additional information)
June 2008	Project Mailer	Provided information regarding Orem Open House (see Table 8-3 for additional information)
July 8, 2008	Press Release	Provided information regarding Provo Open House (see Table 8-3 for additional information)
Fall 2008	Information Sheet	Provided information regarding preliminary Preferred Alternative, characteristics of bus rapid transit (BRT), project overview, schedule, and contact information
February 2009	Information Sheet	Provided information on expected benefits of proposed BRT system and contact information
February 2009	Brochure	Provided information on benefits of proposed BRT system for BYU including reduction in number of buses on campus, reduced parking needs, and increased regional accessibility
June 2009	Press Release	Provided information regarding UVU Open House (see Table 8-3 for additional information)
June 2009	Door Hangers	Provided information regarding UVU Open House (see Table 8-3 for additional information)
May 2010	Information Sheet	Provided an overview of the current project and described recent alignment changes being considered through downtown Provo and at 800 South in Orem

Stakeholder Database

In addition to the outreach materials outlined above, target groups were kept up-to-date via project e-mails. A stakeholder database of more than 500 contacts was maintained during the course of the project. Individuals on this list were sent notifications regarding upcoming project events. Members of the public could be added to this list by entering their information on the project Website or by e-mailing a member of the project team.

Website

The project Website (www.provo-oremrapidtransit.info) also provided public information, including an overview of the project and details of upcoming events. The Website was used to update the public on the decision to prepare an EA instead of an EIS and to update them on additional alignments being considered (e.g., downtown Provo and 800 South in Orem).

Meetings with Target Groups

Table 8-3: Target Group Meetings summarizes project-related meetings that were held with various target groups as part of the public involvement process.

Table 8- 3: Target Group Meetings

Date	Target Group	Details
January 10, 2008	**City Staff/Universities** Policy Committee Meeting #1	- Presented information on project background, purpose and need, goals and objectives, and evaluation criteria - Participated in issues identification exercise
January 16, 2008	**City Staff/ Universities/Stakeholders** Technical Committee Meeting #1	- Presented information on project background, schedule, funding, purpose and need, and evaluation criteria - Presented preliminary travel demand data and list of issues
February 14, 2008	**City Staff** Provo and Orem	- Discussed traffic operations, alternatives, and purpose and need - Requested no exclusives lanes on Freedom Boulevard and re-evaluation of 1200 South in Orem
March 17, 2008	**City Staff/ Universities/Stakeholders** Technical Committee Meeting #2	- Reviewed schedule, evaluation criteria, and preliminary screening of modes and alignments - Recommended BRT as mode - Recommended alternative on south side of UVU - Requested re-evaluation of 1200 South alternative (both center- and side-running) - Recommended Wilkinson Center alignment through BYU - Recommended 100 West and Freedom Boulevard alignment through Provo

Table 8-3: Target Group Meetings (cont'd)

Date	Target Group	Details
April 9, 2008	**General Public** BYU Comment Booth	- Requested information from staff/students on campus stop locations and what would make transit attractive to use
April 14, 2008	**General Public** UVU Booth	- Requested information from staff/students on campus stop locations and what would make transit attractive to use
April 16, 2008	**Stakeholders** BYU Meeting	- Discussed potential BRT alignments around BYU
April 22, 2008	**City Staff** Provo City Council	- Presented information on FTA funding, project overview, BRT characteristics, project schedule, potential for transit oriented development, and the public involvement process
April 25, 2008	**Businesses** Orem Business Owner Canvass	- Discussed transit alternatives through Orem with business owners
May 4, 2008	**General Public/ Stakeholders/Businesses** Orem Alternatives Workshop	- Presented project purpose and characteristics of BRT - Participated in an exercise to review Orem alternatives
May 4, 2008	**General Public/ Stakeholders/Businesses** Orem Open House Meeting	- Presented project purpose and characteristics of BRT - Requested feedback on alternatives through Orem - Determined University Parkway (center-running) as preferred alignment through Orem - Eliminated 1200 South alternative
May 5, 2008	**Businesses** Orem Business Owner Canvass	- Discussed transit alternatives through Orem with business owners
May 10, 2008	**City Staff** Orem City Council	- Presented information on purpose and need, BRT characteristics, transit alternatives through Orem (ridership, travel time, right-of-way, etc.), and input collected at Orem Open House - City Council expressed support for University Parkway (center-running) through Orem
May 13, 2008	**Businesses** Car Dealership Canvass	- Discussed transit alternatives through Orem with car dealership owners
June 24 – 25, 2008	**Businesses/Stakeholders** Provo Business Owners/ Stakeholder Canvass	- Discussed transit alternatives through Provo with business owners and local organizations

Table 8-3: Target Group Meetings (cont'd)

Date	Target Group	Details
July 30, 2008	**General Public/ Stakeholders/Businesses** Provo Alternatives Workshop	- Presented information on project overview, project need, Provo redevelopment plans, project schedule, and transit oriented development principles - Group activity to provide input on transit alternatives through Provo - Opposition expressed to BRT on University Avenue - Refined station locations through Provo - Identified Freedom Boulevard tunnel concepts as preferred railroad crossing option
July 30, 2008	**General Public/ Stakeholders/Businesses** Provo Open House Meeting	- Presented information on purpose and need, BRT characteristics, Provo transit alternatives, travel demand, project schedule, and public involvement activities undertaken - Requested feedback on transit alternatives through Provo - Support expressed for 100 West alignment and Freedom Boulevard tunnel concept - No clear consensus on transit alternatives around BYU
August 20, 2008	**City Staff/ Universities/Stakeholders** Combined Policy/Technical Committee Meeting	- Presented information regarding project schedule, short list of transit alternatives, evaluation of alternatives (ridership, cost, mobility, etc.), preliminary Preferred Alternative alignment, and outstanding decisions - Opposition expressed to BRT through center of BYU campus - Support expressed for 100 West alignment and Freedom Boulevard crossing
January 7, 2009	**City Staff** Provo City	- Discussed southern terminus, status of Provo Intermodal Center, railroad crossing options, preliminary Preferred Alternative alignment, and station locations - Refined station locations through Provo
January 8, 2009	**City Staff** Provo City	- Discussed storm drain system along the transit alignment - Concern expressed regarding drainage along 700 North and at Freedom Boulevard tunnel location

Table 8-3: Target Group Meetings (cont'd)

Date	Target Group	Details
January 23, 2009	**Stakeholders** Boyer Company	- Discussed Boyer's East Bay development and potential station at this location
January 30, 2009	**Stakeholders** Union Pacific	- Discussed potential underpass/bridge on Freedom Boulevard and coordination with the FrontRunner South project
February 2, 2009	**City Staff** Orem Engineering	- Discussed the potential location of transit stations along University Parkway
February 3, 2009	**Stakeholders** University Mall	- Discussed access changes to the University Mall from University Parkway
February 3, 2009	**City Staff** Provo Engineering	- Discussed traffic analysis, bridge vs. tunnel on Freedom Boulevard, and station locations through Provo
March 12, 2009	**Stakeholders** Novell	- Discussed station locations around Novell campus and provision of an end of line rest stop
March 12, 2009	**Stakeholders** General Growth Properties	- Discussed future plans for the Provo Towne Centre
April 14, 2009	**Universities/City Staff** Combined BYU/Provo Meeting	- Discussed the transit alignment around BYU and potential impacts if alignment follows 900 East in Provo
May 4, 2009	**City Staff** Provo City Council	- Update meeting regarding the status of the proposed project and the Provo Intermodal Center project
May 5, 2009	**City Staff** Orem City Council	- Update meeting regarding the status of the proposed project and the Orem Intermodal Center project
May 11, 2009	**Stakeholders** Utah County Rotary Club	- Presented information on the proposed project including the preliminary alignment, project purpose, and benefits to regional mobility
July 16, 2009	**City Staff/Universities** Combined BYU/Provo Meeting	- Discussed preliminary Preferred Alternative and outstanding design issues around BYU including station at LaVell Edwards Stadium, J-Dawgs station option, and exclusive lanes on 900 East
February 24, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Planning Commission	- Discussed the need to re-align the proposed BRT system in downtown Provo due to Nu Skin expansion on 100 West

Table 8-3: Target Group Meetings (cont'd)

Date	Target Group	Details
March 2010	**Businesses** Provo Business Owners Canvass	- Discussed transit alternatives through Provo with business owners
April 4, 2010	**Businesses** Freedom Boulevard and University Avenue Business Meetings	- Discussed proposed transit alternatives through Provo and received comments on station locations, alignment, concerns, etc.
April 9, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Community Development	- Reviewed preliminary alternatives through Provo (University Avenue and Freedom Boulevard) - Reviewed cross-sections and evaluation criteria
April 13, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Council	- Provided an overview of the project including benefits, costs, and alignments being re-evaluated in downtown Provo - City staff provided comments/questions
April 19, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Engineering	- Discussed re-evaluation of alternatives in Provo and employment assumptions used in transportation analysis zones - Discussed traffic analysis and preliminary cost estimates
April 23, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Council	- Provided an update to two Provo City Council members who were unable to attend the April 13, 2010, meeting (details same as above)
April 27, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Council	- Presented data regarding Provo re-evaluation including updated cross-sections, traffic analysis, visualizations, and land use assumptions, etc. - Provided opportunity for comment - Discussed next steps
May 26, 2010	**City Staff/ Universities/Stakeholders** Combined Policy/ Technical Committee Meeting	- Presented information regarding status of the project and recent changes - Discussed current project funding and development of a funding committee
June 23, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Engineering	- Presented traffic analysis assumptions for University Avenue and discussed elimination of left turns - Presented information regarding preliminary parking/landscaping impacts on University Avenue
August 5, 2010	**City Staff** Provo City Engineering and Planning	- Presented traffic analysis conducted for University Avenue - Presented information regarding updated parking/landscaping impacts on University Avenue

Table 8-4: 800 South Meetings summarizes project-related meetings that were held with various target groups regarding the proposal to include an interchange at 800 South in Orem. During the decision-making process for the new interchange, a stakeholder committee was established that included representatives from UVU, UDOT, MAG, UTA, and residents living near the proposed interchange. The project team conducted four meetings with the stakeholder working group from December 2008 to June 2010 to identify issues and develop alternatives. The main concern associated with the new interchange was increased traffic levels on neighborhood roads and accommodating future UVU campus plans.

Table 8- 4: 800 South Meetings

Date	Target Group	Details
December 16, 2008	**City Staff/ Stakeholders/Universities** 800 South Stakeholder Meeting #1	- Presented information regarding need for potential overpass/interchange at 800 South - Discussed goals and constraints for interchange alternatives
January 28, 2009	**City Staff/ Stakeholders/Universities** 800 South Stakeholder Meeting #2	- Discussed Interstate 15 (I-15) crossing alternatives and 800 South interchange options
February 26, 2009	**City Staff/ Stakeholders/Universities** 800 South Stakeholder Meeting #3	- Presented information regarding status of the project - Discussed 800 South alternative recommended for further analysis
June 2, 2009	**City Staff** Orem Transportation Committee	- Discussed the upcoming open house for the 800 South interchange option
June 18, 2009	**General Public/ Stakeholders/Businesses** 800 South Open House	- Presented information regarding characteristics of BRT, traffic analysis overview, and alternatives being considered around UVU - Comments expressed regarding impacts to residents located on 680 South and 800 South
August 27, 2009	**Stakeholders** 680 South residents	- Discussed realignment of 800 South and proposed interchange at this location - Concerns expressed included potential noise impacts, traffic impacts on 1200 West, car lights, loss of privacy, and impacts to community cohesion
November 10, 2009	**Stakeholders** 800 South residents	- Discussed 800 South interchange and touchdown on the west side of I-15

Table 8-4: 800 South Meetings (cont'd)

Date	Target Group	Details
June 29, 2010	**City Staff/ Stakeholders/Universities** 800 South Stakeholder Meeting #4	- Presented information regarding status of the project - Update on recent project changes - Reviewed previous 800 South interchange concept - Working session to provide comments on new 800 South high-occupancy/ toll (HOT) interchange being considered
July 6, 2010	**City Staff/Stakeholders** Orem Transit Advisory Committee	- Presented information regarding changes to the proposed projects and specifically to the 800 South interchange in Orem - Working session to provide comments on new 800 South HOT interchange being considered
August 3, 2010	**City Staff/Stakeholders** Orem Transit Advisory Committee	- Presented traffic analysis conducted for the proposed HOT interchange at 800 South and visualization of a neighborhood mitigation concept for 680 South residents
August 30, 2010	**Universities** UVU	- Discussion regarding 800 South concepts - UVU expressed support for HOT Interchange Alternative 2A, but was comfortable with both alternatives being carried forward in the EA

Meeting notes summarized the content of each meeting described in Tables 8-3 and 8-4 and detailed substantive comments received. Copies of these meeting notes are included in the project records. Major issues identified during public involvement activities and coordination with target groups are discussed in Section 8.4: Comments Received.

8.3 ADDITIONAL AGENCY COORDINATION

In 2010, due to changes to the proposed alignment, project update letters were sent to participating agencies requesting comments on the changes being considered. Written coordination was undertaken with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office regarding identification of historic resources within the project study area. Correspondence with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources was also undertaken regarding the occurrence of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species within the project area. These activities are discussed below.

Utah State Historic Preservation Office

Coordination was undertaken with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office in initiating the Section 106 process and during development of the EA to identify potential effects to historic resources within the project study area. Copies of written correspondence regarding the area of potential effects (APE), the determination of eligibility (DOE), and the finding of effect (FOE) are included in the Appendix.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

During development of the EA, written correspondence was undertaken with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources regarding the occurrence of any threatened, endangered, or sensitive species within the project area. Copies of written correspondence are included in the Appendix.

Additional Agency Coordination Letters

In June 2010, project update letters were sent to participating agencies requesting comments on recent project changes, including a proposed high-occupancy/toll vehicle (HOT) interchange overpass at 800 South in Orem (instead of the general purpose half interchange (to the north) originally considered). Proposed changes also included shifting the preferred alignment in downtown Provo from 100 West to University Avenue (between 700 North and 500 South). This was due to a recent decision by Provo City to approve a proposal by Nu Skin International to expand its downtown building over 100 West near Center Street, thereby closing 100 West to through-traffic. Project update letters also provided details regarding the decision to prepare an EA instead of an EIS. Copies of scoping letters are included in the Appendix.

8.4 COMMENTS RECEIVED

In addition to comments received during the scoping period, comments were received throughout the course of the project in a variety of formats, including written comments submitted via the project Website or e-mail, verbal comments made at stakeholder/public meetings, verbal comments made during telephone conversations with project team members, and letters submitted to the project team and UTA.

Several issues were identified through the course of the outreach process. These issues, and how they were addressed, are summarized below.

Safety Issues Associated with BRT on BYU Campus

During development of the Preferred Alternative, the project team coordinated with university representatives regarding transit alternatives that would serve the BYU campus.

BYU expressed concern about pedestrian safety for the route that would serve the Wilkinson Center. To address BYU's concerns, a range of UTA safety data was collected including bus/pedestrian accident records within the UTA service area (between 2003 and 2007), details on UTA BRT driver safety training, and information regarding possible benefits to BYU as a result of the new BRT system (e.g., a reduction in the overall number of buses on campus). This information was presented to BYU in a brochure. BYU's lack of support for the Wilkinson Center alignment was factored into the evaluation of transit alternatives around campus (see Chapter 2, Alternatives). The perimeter alignment was selected as part of the Preferred Alternative.

Transit Alignment through Orem

The 2005 *Provo-Orem Transit Feasibility Study* recommended that BRT be constructed on University Parkway through Orem; however, during initial meetings with Orem City and the technical committee, it was recommended that additional alternatives be evaluated through Orem. In particular, it was requested that 1200 South be evaluated. To address this request, a conceptual design (with a combination of center- and side-running options) was developed for 1200 South. A workshop and public open house meeting was held to collect feedback on Orem alternatives. At this meeting, significant opposition was expressed for the 1200 South alignment.

Support was expressed for center-running BRT on University Parkway. Public support for the University Parkway alignment was factored into the evaluation of transit alternatives through Orem. University Parkway was selected as part of the Preferred Alternative.

800 South Interchange

In November 2007 a Draft EIS was prepared for the reconstruction of I-15 in Utah County. Two of the alternatives carried forward in the Draft EIS included a new interchange on I-15 at 800 South (Options A and C). However, in light of comments received on the I-15 project and the need to complete the EIS in a timely manner, alternatives including the 800 South interchange were dropped.

In 2009, the joint lead agencies decided to include the interchange as part of the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit Project. In response to public concern regarding the introduction of the 800 South interchange, a public comment period was held between June 18, 2009, and July 3, 2009. During this time, comments were received regarding potential noise and visual impacts to residences along 650/680 South, potential traffic impacts along 800 South, and the need for traffic calming measures.

Additional comments were solicited from the 800 South stakeholder committee from June 2010 to August 2010 to determine the feasibility of constructing an HOT interchange overpass at 800 South (instead of the general purpose half interchange originally considered). In response to comments received, it was proposed that a traffic calming feature (community entrance) be constructed at the intersection of 800 South/800 West in Orem. In addition, treatment options to eliminate potential noise and visual impacts to 680 South residents were evaluated, including the use of landscaped berms and retaining walls. It was proposed that the stakeholder committee established during the environmental process continue during final design to finalize mitigation concepts (including residents from both 680 South and 800 South).

8.5 NEXT STEPS

The EA will be circulated for public review and comment on April 12, 2011, and the public comment period will last until May 13, 2011. A public hearing will be held during the comment period, where the public will be able to formally comment through the use of a comment form or via a court reporter. The public will also be able to comment via e-mail (provo-oremrapidtransit@hwlochner.com) or through the project Website (www.provo-oremrapidtransit.info) for the duration of the comment period. A copy of the EA will be available on the project Website and at various public locations during the comment period.