



Public Hearing Summary

F.A.P. No. NHPP-030-22(68)

ARDOT Job NO. CA0602

I-530 – Highway 67 (Widening and Reconst.)

(I-30 and I-40) (F)

Pulaski County, Arkansas

December 2018



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In April 2014, the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) began the Interstate 30 (I-30) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study to identify the purpose and need for improvements within the I-30 PEL study area, determine possible viable alternatives for a long-term transportation solution, and recommend alternatives that can be carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The PEL study was completed and approved in June 2015.

The NEPA process includes identifying social, economic, and environmental impacts related to the project, and evaluating methods to avoid, minimize, or mitigate identified potential impacts. This project, known as “30 Crossing”, is considering alternatives that would widen, reconstruct, and rehabilitate portions of Interstates 30 and 40, including the Arkansas River Bridge connecting downtown Little Rock to downtown North Little Rock over the Arkansas River. In addition to studying environmental impacts, the NEPA process includes opportunities for public involvement and interagency coordination and consultation. As part of the public involvement process, public meetings and a hearing were held to present and discuss the plans, and to allow the public to provide feedback. This report describes the 30 Crossing Public Hearing.

2.0 PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing Logistics:

Location: Wyndham Riverfront (Silver City Rooms)
2 Riverfront Place
North Little Rock, AR 72114
Date: July 12, 2018
Time: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Format: Open House

Figure 1 depicts the location of the Public Hearing. The sections that follow further describe the Public Hearing and summarize input received through the 45-day public comment period, from June 10 to July 27, 2018.

Figure 1. Public Hearing Location



2.1 Public Hearing Advertising and Outreach

The Public Hearing for the NEPA Study was publicized using numerous methods of advertising and outreach, as summarized in Table 1. Directional signs were placed in various locations around the Public Hearing facility to help participants locate the facility and to generate additional local awareness of the event.

Table 1. Public Hearing Outreach

OUTREACH EFFORTS	DATE(S)
Direct Mail (4,252)	
- Elected officials (84)	6/20/18
- First row + interchange owners (460)	6/20/18
- 2 nd & 4 th Street property owners (168)	6/20/18
- 4 th through 9 th Street property owners (111)	6/20/18
- Stakeholders (chambers, HOAs, etc.) (181)	6/20/18
- Minority ministers and area churches (70)	6/20/18
- No email provided (306)	6/20/18
- Every Door Direct Mail – 2nd to 7th, east of I-30 (2,768)	6/20/18
- Email failed – Sent Letter (104)	7/3/18
Email Flyers (2,191)	
- Technical Work Group members	6/27/18
- Elected officials	6/27/18
- Interested in project	6/27/18
- Attended previous public or community meetings	6/27/18
- Stakeholders (chambers, HOAs, etc.)	6/27/18
- Minority ministers and area churches	6/27/18
- Project Partners, SAG, Visioning Workshop members	6/27/18
Public Service Announcements (PSAs)	
- La Zeta 106.3 FM (Spanish) – two 60-second PSAs	7/4/18 – 7/12/18
Print Ads	
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette (2)	6/24/18 7/8/18
- El Latino (Spanish) (2)	6/28/18 7/5/18
- North Little Rock Times (2)	6/28/18 7/5/18
Websites	
- www.connectingarkansasprogram.com	6/8/18
- www.ardot.gov	6/8/18
- www.Metroplan.org	6/12/18
Legal Ad	
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette	6/10/18
Media Release	
- News Release #1	6/8/18
- News Release #2	6/28/18
Hand Delivered Flyers	

OUTREACH EFFORTS	DATE(S)
- Churches	6/29/18 7/5/18 7/8/18
- Area Attractions (Museums, River Market, etc.)	6/29/18 7/5/18
- Gas stations along the I-30 corridor	
- Schools & Development Centers	
- Libraries and Community Centers	
- Residences, Commercial Buildings, Billboard locations, Misc.	
- Neighborhoods: Hanger Hill, Dark Hollow, Pettitway, Mid City, others	
- 4 th – 6 th , 9 th streets	
- Along frontage roads	7/2/18
Community Calendars	
- Eventful	
- Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau	
- Fox 16	
- KARK	
- City of Little Rock	
- ARDOT Lobby Message Board	
- ARDOT Electronic Marquee	
- UALR Public Radio	
Social Media	
Metroplan Twitter	6/12/18 – 7/10/18
Metroplan Facebook	6/12/18 – 7/10/18
Various group/personal Twitter and Facebook	6/12/18 – 7/10/18
ARDOT Twitter	6/12/18 – 7/10/18

Copies of the print ads, Public Hearing flyer, public official letters, public service announcements, and media releases are included in **Attachment A**.

Additionally, copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) were available for public review beginning June 8, 2018 at the 30 Crossing website (30Crossing.com) and the following locations:

- ARDOT Headquarters
- Garver Headquarters
- Central Arkansas Library (Little Rock)
- Laman Library (North Little Rock)

Copies of the EA were also available for public review at the Public Hearing.

2.2 Public Hearing Attendance

A summary of the attendance at the Public Hearing is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Public Hearing Attendance

Attendees	Number
General Public	270
Agencies	25
Elected Officials	6
Media	4
Study Team Members	56
Total Attendance	361

Participants represented a wide range of interests and included members of the general public, members of community organizations, elected officials and city/county staff. Copies of the sign-in sheets from the hearing are included in **Attachment B**.

2.3 Public Hearing Format and Materials

The Public Hearing was held in an open house format, which allowed visitors to sign in, view exhibits, ask questions of NEPA Study Team members, and provide comments between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. The hearing layout showcased six distinct stations. (Copies of these materials and photos from the hearing are included in **Attachment C**.)

Sign-In Table: At this table, members of the public signed in, learned about the Public Hearing format, and received handout materials. Materials included a summary sheet, project area map, comment form, and flyer for the online comment form. A notice of non-discrimination was also posted in this location.

Station 1: “We Are Here” Project Status – The Project Status station consisted of Project Area Maps, the 30 Crossing Timeline, Design-Build Overview, and recap of Public Involvement activities. The 30 Crossing Timeline included completed, ongoing and anticipated future activities over the course of the entire project. The Design-Build Overview briefly described the Design-Build process and listed the teams identified for further consideration for selection. Public Involvement activity overviews included an infographic of meetings and comments and an additional board highlighting some project aspects that were directly influenced by stakeholder input.

Station 2: Preferred Alternative Overview – The second station presented exhibits about Purpose and Need, PEL Study Goals, the Preferred Corridor Alternative, the Preferred Highway 10 Interchange Alternative, 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor, the Split Diamond Interchange, Safety Improvements, Identification of Historic Properties, and Downtown Peak Hour Traffic Volumes, which included a model simulation video of the Split Diamond Interchange showing downtown Little Rock Traffic (2041) during a.m. and p.m. peak hours.

Station 3: Preferred Alternative – Station 3 presented two identical copies of the large roll plot aerial display of the Preferred Alternative as well as a board displaying the alternative’s Typical Sections and a board displaying an elevation rendering of the project, looking west from the Clinton Library. The roll plots enabled Public Hearing attendees to view specific property locations and existing right-of-way boundaries

relative to the anticipated construction areas and any additional right of way that is anticipated to be required. The 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor Lanes Typical Sections displayed the lane configurations found throughout the Preferred Alternative, section by section and displayed the typical section for each configuration. The board Looking West from Clinton Library showed the west viewshed from the Clinton Library, which includes the removal of the existing interchange embankments.

Station 4: Environmental Assessment Report and Park Documents – This station displayed for public viewing printed copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, along with laptops allowing electronic review. An exhibit board displayed the individual studies and reports conducted in support of the EA. The Environmental Impacts board displayed potential impacts to William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park & Julius Breckling Riverfront Park, North Shore Riverwalk Park and Locust Street Overpass. Staff also had a form that hearing attendees could sign if they wanted someone to contact them after the hearing for further discussion regarding the EA.

Station 5: Right of Way – At this station, staff from ARDOT was available to answer questions from the public. They primarily addressed potential right-of-way impacts to property.

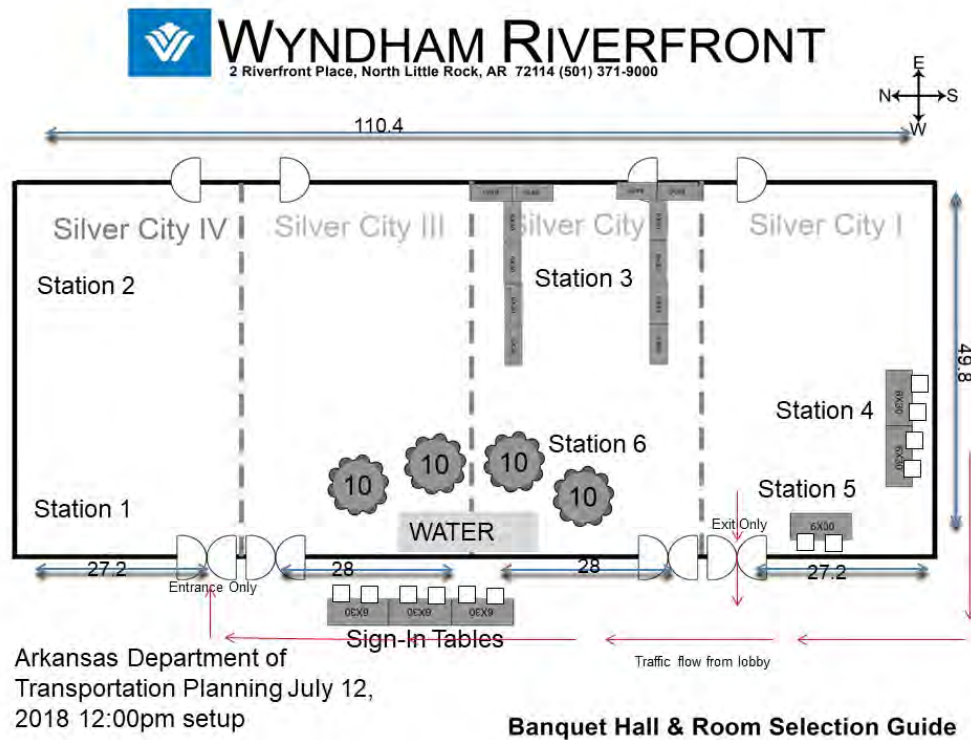
Station 6: Outreach and Comments – This station included a sitting area and comment boxes for Public Hearing participants to complete and submit comment forms at the venue. Additionally, there was an option for participants to have their comments verbally recorded. This station also presented an exhibit detailing the various methods members of the public could obtain more information or provide comments on the I-30 NEPA Study. At the end of the Public Hearing, the Study Team collected all written comments from the comment boxes.

Table 3. Public Hearing Materials

Station	Type	Title
Sign In Table	Handout	Public Hearing Notice Flier
	Handout	30 Crossing Summary Sheet
	Handout	Project Area Map
	Handout	Comment Form
	Handout	Online Comment Form Flyer
	Exhibit	Notice of Non-Discrimination
Station 1: "We Are Here" Project Status	Exhibits	Project Area Maps
	Exhibit	30 Crossing Timeline
	Exhibit	Design-Build Overview
	Exhibit	30 Crossing Public Involvement
	Exhibit	Your Input Matters!
Station 2: Preferred Alternative Overview	Exhibit	Purpose and Need
	Exhibit	PEL Study Goals
	Exhibit	Preferred Corridor Alternative
	Exhibit	Preferred Highway 10 Interchange Alternative

Station	Type	Title
Station 2: Preferred Alternative Overview (continued)	Exhibit	6-Lane with Collector/Distributor Details
	Exhibit	Split Diamond Interchange Details
	Exhibit	Safety Improvements
	Exhibit	Identification of Historic Properties
	Exhibit	Downtown Peak Hour Traffic Volumes
	Video	Downtown Traffic Volume and Simulation
Station 3: Preferred Alternative	Exhibits	Roll Plots
	Exhibit	6-Lane with Collector/Distributor Lanes Typical Sections
	Exhibit	Looking West from Clinton Library
Station 4: Environmental Assessment Report and Park Documents	Exhibit	Environmental Assessment: Studies and Reports
	Exhibit	Environmental Impacts
	Reports	Draft Environment Assessment (Print and Electronic)
	Form	Follow-up Sign-in Sheet
Station 5: Right of Way		ROW Brochure
Station 6: Outreach and Comments	Handout	Comment Form
	Exhibit	How to Get Involved

Figure 2. Public Hearing Room Layout



2.4 Public Hearing Comments

The public comment period extended from June 10, through July 27, 2018. Participants could provide comments through a variety of methods, including the following:

- Submitting a written comment in the Public Hearing comment box at Station 6;
- Requesting to have their verbal comments recorded by staff at the Public Hearing at Station 6;
- Filling out an online form at 30Crossing.com that provided the same fields as the comment form available at the Public Hearing;
- Calling the Connecting Arkansas Program office at 501-225-1519;
- Mailing a written comment to Connecting Arkansas Program, RE: 30 Crossing, 4701 Northshore Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72118; or
- Emailing a comment to Info@30crossing.com

Table 4 shows the number of comment submissions by method in which they were submitted:

Table 4. Number of Comments Received

Submission Method ¹	Number of Comments
Written/Oral Comment	28
Direct Email	15
Submission via Website	308
Total Comments Received	351

Note: ¹ See Attachments D or F for detailed comments.

The public was asked to provide comments and suggestions. Most feedback was received directly through the online form on the Connecting Arkansas Program website, which hosted the 30 Crossing project page and online comment form.

Individuals expressed support for the improvements as well as concerns that the preferred alternative would lower the quality of life within downtown Little Rock. Those who expressed concern over quality of life issues suggest the project will impact:

- The economy vitality and tourism downtown
- Community cohesion
- Loss of parking
- Accommodations for people on bicycles or walking
- Traffic conditions
- Air quality and noise

Other common topics that were reviewed throughout the public comment process included the need for additional highway capacity, the need for safety improvements (signage and roadway configurations), concerns about regional and community growth, the Purpose and Need of the project, community impacts, bicycle and pedestrian safety issues, interchange improvements, bridge repair/replacement/design, other route alternatives, and transit alternatives.

Attachment D provides a listing of all comments received. Also included are the corresponding response codes for each comment. The response code key, along with the individual comment responses, is presented in **Attachment E**. For response code “R”, an individual response is provided. Comments are listed verbatim unless otherwise notated, and copies of all comments received are included in **Attachment F**.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Feedback from the Public Hearing supports the need for transportation solutions in the study area to improve safety, improve existing roadway deficiencies (i.e., too many ramps, weaving problems, etc.), alleviate congestion, and improve access and connectivity across I-30 through Little Rock and North Little Rock. With the presentation of the current alternatives, many of the comments received included specific questions related to potential access and ROW impacts. Like previous public meetings, commenters noted ramping and weaving problems as issues of concern and identified bicycle, pedestrian and transit accommodations as important transportation priorities.

The input gathered at the Public Hearing will be used to assist FHWA in making a decision regarding whether the project is likely to have a significant impact on the environment. If FHWA determines that a significant impact is likely, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be prepared by ARDOT and submitted to FHWA. If FHWA determines a significant impact is not likely, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document will be prepared by ARDOT and submitted to the FHWA.

Copies of this document, as well as additional 30 Crossing materials, are available online at www.30Crossing.com. Questions or additional comments may be directed to Info@30crossing.com.