

Attachment G
Town Hall Meeting Summary

INTRODUCTION

In April 2014, the Arkansas Highway State Transportation Department (AHTD) 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 seamlessly 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. In addition to studying environmental impacts, the NEPA process includes opportunities for public involvement and interagency coordination and consultation. As part of this public involvement process, public meetings are held to present and discuss the plans, and to allow the public to provide feedback within the study area. This report describes the 30 Crossing Town Hall Meeting, a part of the public involvement process.

TOWN HALL MEETING

The Town Hall Meeting logistics were as follows:

Location:

Clinton Presidential Center (Great Hall), 1200 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Date: Monday, November 16, 2015

Time: 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Format: Town Hall

The sections that follow further detail Town Hall Meeting #1 and summarize the input received through December 6, 2015, which was the end of the public comment period.

Public Meeting Advertising and Outreach

The 30 Crossing Town Hall Meeting was publicized by a formal press release and advertisements on websites for the Connecting Arkansas Program (www.connectingarkansasprogram.com) and Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (www.arkansashighways.com). The press release, along with other Town Hall meeting materials, is included in **Attachment H**.

In addition, directional signs were placed in various locations around the public meeting facility to help participants locate the facility and to generate additional local awareness of the event.

Public Meeting Attendance

A summary of the attendance at the Town Hall Meeting is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Town Hall Meeting Attendance

Attendees	Number
General Public	166
Agencies	10
Elected Officials	6
Media	2
Study Team Members	26
Total Attendance	210

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 Town Hall Meeting are included in Attachment H.

Public Meeting Format and Materials

This meeting was held as a Town Hall format, which allowed participants to arrive, sign in, view a presentation, and speak publicly, asking questions of the featured panel. The panel was comprised of 30 Crossing Staff, AHTD, and affiliated agencies.

The presentation shown at the meeting is included in full in Attachment H and included the following information:

Meeting Agenda

Project Background – A map of the study area was shown and major project components were addressed. Other nearby or related projects such as the CARTS Areawide Freeway Study, River Rail Airport Studies, and the I-630 Fixed Guideway Alignment Study were also briefly discussed.

Purpose and Need – The Purpose and Need of the project was presented, which includes needing to address traffic congestion, roadway safety, structural and functional roadway deficiencies, navigational safety, and structural and function bridge deficiencies.

Study Goals – Goals of the study were presented, which included improving the opportunity for east-west connectivity within the study area, accommodating existing and future transit, optimizing opportunities for economic development and improving safety, amongst several other goals.

Schedule, Coordination & Meetings – A schedule overview showed the four processes involved in the project (PEL, Environmental & Schematic (NEPA), Design-Build Procurement, and Design & Construction). All of the meetings that have been held to date were outlined.

Alternatives and Screenings – The Universe of Alternatives was introduced, and the screening process by which they were vetted for further study was briefly explained. Examples of eliminated alternatives were given. The two alternatives that are still being studied were outlined in greater detail along with conceptual renderings.

Additionally, the criteria by which each alternative was evaluated were explained. These items included potential impacts to park lands, potential impacts to cultural resources, potential impacts to air quality, and traffic noise, among others.

Schematics – Initial design schematics were shown for different aspects of the project, including the following: I-30/I-530 Interchange; Roosevelt Road Ramps; I-30/I-630 Interchange; alternatives for access

at Cantrell; improvements to the River Bridge, Broadway area, and Curtis Sykes area; I-30/I-40 Interchange; and I-40/US-67 Interchange.

Operations – Map images of Seattle and Portland, Oregon were shown as examples of Interstate roadways that travel through downtown areas. The PEL Recommended I-30 improvement was shown in a diagram from south of E Roosevelt Rd to the I-40 Interchange, clearly indicating directions and lanes of travel. Issues associated with an alternative route east of I-30 and induced traffic demand were presented.

Questions – The public was given the opportunity to speak on record about the project. In total, 28 members of the public spoke at the meeting. A summary of all comments is included in Attachment H.

Public Meeting Comments

A public comment period was open since Public Meeting #5, held October 22, 2015. Additional Comment Forms were distributed at the Town Hall Meeting, and the comment period ended for both meetings on December 6, 2015. Attendees could provide comments through a variety of methods, including the following:

- Submitting a written comment in the comment box;
- Calling the Connecting Arkansas Program at 501-225-1519;
- Mailing a written comment to Connecting Arkansas Program, RE: 1-30 PEL Study, 4701 Northshore Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72118; or
- Emailing a comment to Info@ConnectingArkansasProgram.com.

A total of seven comments were received at the Town Hall Meeting and can be found in Attachment H. Concerns of the submitted comments primarily addressed the incorporation of the River Rail Streetcar and transit in general. Comments were made that highlighted advancing transportation technology that will affect the ultimate outcome of future roadway projects. There were two comments that voiced support for a Resolution authored by the Coalition of Little Rock Neighborhoods. Other comments voiced support for the project.

Attachment H provides a listing of all comments received. Also included are the corresponding response codes for each comment. The response code key is presented in this report's preceding **Attachment E**. Comments are listed verbatim unless otherwise notated and copies of all comments received are also included in Attachment H.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Feedback from the Town Hall Meeting supports the need for transportation solutions in the study area. Similar to previous public meetings, commenters were generally concerned about safety and traffic congestion, and identified bicycle, pedestrian and transit accommodations as important transportation priorities.

The input gathered from the Town Hall, along with Public Meeting #5, will be used will be used to help further refine and develop the alternatives as part of the current NEPA process.

Copies of this document, as well as future public meeting materials, will be available online at www.ConnectingArkansasProgram.com. Questions or additional comments may be directed to Info@ConnectingArkansasProgram.com.