

Attachment G
Public Comment Evaluation Methodology



Attachment G

Public Comment Record and Analysis Methodology

Pulaski County, Arkansas
September 2016



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1.0 PUBLIC MEETING #6

The public serves as the primary user of transportation services provided by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD). All AHTD public involvement activities are initiated in order to both inform as well as solicit input from the public. As with all AHTD studies and projects, efforts for the ongoing National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Study for Connecting Arkansas Program's 30 Crossing continues to solicit, record, and analyze all comments and concerns from the public.

Public Meeting #6 was held Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. at the Wyndham Riverfront (Silver City Rooms), located at 2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, Arkansas. At the meeting, pre-printed comment forms were available for attendees to record and submit their comments on site, during the meeting. The timeframe to submit comments for inclusion in the Public Meeting #6 Summary occurred from Tuesday, April 26, 2016 through Friday, June 10, 2016.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT COLLECTION

The AHTD Project Oversight Plan indicates that “As appropriate, project specific questionnaires will be used for recording public responses, and acquiring information about SEE [social, environmental and economic] issues and problems.” The comment form available at the Public Meeting incorporated a project-specific questionnaire in addition to blank space for additional comment. Furthermore, the project website 30Crossing.com offered an electronic version of the comment form with the same layout. Copies of these forms are included on pages 4 and 5.

The majority of comments (1406) submitted during the Public Comment period were submitted by this project-specific web form. Other comments were received in person at Public Meeting #6 (37) and a Community Meeting held in Jacksonville, AR (5); emailed to various AHTD accounts (53); through the project website general form (12); and by post (10).

Each comment was ordered chronologically and compiled into a running PDF file, updated daily and maintained on e-Builder, the Program Management software used to house all documents for the Connecting Arkansas Program, including 30 Crossing. As additions were made, the newest comments were distributed by email to the project team.

A spreadsheet was maintained and updated daily with the newest comments. All information provided as part of the submitted comment was recorded. Information provided could include the following: name or organization, phone number, email address, mailing address, date submitted, method by which the comment was submitted, preferred lane configuration, preferred interchange, and other comments. To provide accurate organization, the PDF pages of each comment were recorded, and each comment was assigned a number after the comment period closed.

3.0 INFORMATION RECORD

Information collected from submitted comments was parsed and categorized and will serve as the record for future steps in project development. Due to the project-specific questionnaire portion of the form, efficient and direct record was made for each comment's initial preferences in terms of preferred lane configuration (6-Lane with Collector/Distributor Lanes; 8-Lane General Purpose Lanes; Other Alternative; No Build) and interchange type (Split Diamond; Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)). For those comments that indicated a preference of “Other

Alternative,” additional examination was given to determine any indicated preference, and the specified recommendation item was recorded.

Since the majority of comments were submitted through the web-based form, it did not exclude multiple submissions from the same individual.

In tallying the indicated preferred alternatives included in the project-specific questionnaire portion of the form, individuals could select any number of alternatives, but the same preferred alternative was not counted more than once per individual. To avoid “spamming” attempts or duplicate submissions, each column within the spreadsheet was analyzed to determine if it held repeating information. For instance, if an email address or name was found more than once, each questionnaire selection and comment was compared. When repeated information was found, the project-specific questionnaire portion was nulled for each ensuing submission after the initial comment; any additional comments were still documented for response and record. In cases that the comment included an explicit request to change the initial preference, the request was honored, and the indicated preference became part of the recorded count.

The No Build alternative was selected 464 times, although a portion of those comment forms also included a specified preference to evaluate turning I-30 into an at-grade boulevard-type facility or suggested that other alternatives be developed and evaluated. Considering the No Build alternative for AHTD projects involves no new construction, these preferences were considered as a preference for “Other.” As such, 229 selections of “Other Alternative” were recorded. Those who provided additional comment primarily suggested the boulevard concept, bridge repair or replacement only, and the StudioMAIN-presented concept that includes deck parks as part of the 30 Crossing design.

4.0 COMMENT RESPONSE

Upon receipt of each electronic comment, a response email was provided by AHTD.

Thank you for providing us with your comments. Your comments have been submitted to the project team and will be included in the project record. After the comment period ends on June 10, a public meeting document will be prepared and will include all comments received along with standard responses to the comments. In addition, all comments will be posted on the 30 Crossing website at 30crossing.com upon the completion of the public meeting document.

5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following the end of the comment period on June 10, 2016, additional comments were received. These comments will be retained as part of the public record but are not included in the Public Meeting #6 Summary.

Attachments

ONLINE COMMENT FORM

Provide your comments on this form and submit by June 10, 2016.

AHTD Job Number CA0602

30 Crossing Project
I-530 – Hwy. 67 (I-30 & I-40)
Pulaski County

Public Meeting #6

Wyndham Riverfront (Silver City Rooms)
2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, AR
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26, 2016

When determining a preferred alternative for a project, many factors are considered, including environmental and property impacts, costs, and agency and public input. In an effort to solicit input from you, the public, please provide your input below:

Citizen Comment Form

Name

Email

Telephone

Address

Which alternative(s) presented has the most positive impacts, while minimizing negative impacts?

- No Build (No Improvements are Implemented)
- 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor (C/D) Lanes and Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)
- 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor (C/D) Lanes and Split Diamond Interchange
- 8-Lane General Purpose Lanes and Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)
- 8-Lane General Purpose Lanes and Split Diamond Interchange
- Other Alternative (Please Indicate Below)

Other Alternative

Comments

Comments

Send Comment

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)



CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

PUBLIC MEETING #6
WYNDHAM RIVERFRONT
(SILVER CITY ROOMS)
2 RIVERFRONT PLACE, NLR, AR
5:00 – 8:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016

AHTD JOB NUMBER CA0602
30 CROSSING PROJECT
I-530 – HWY. 67 (I-30 & I-40)
PULASKI COUNTY

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD Connecting Arkansas Program personnel at the meeting or mail/email by **June 10, 2016**. *In addition, an electronic comment form is available to submit on the 30Crossing.com website.*

AHTD Connecting Arkansas Program
RE: 30 Crossing Public Meeting
4701 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118.

Email: Info@30Crossing.com

When determining a preferred alternative for a project, many factors are considered, including environmental and property impacts, costs, and agency and public input. In an effort to solicit input from you, the public, please provide your input below:

Which alternative(s) presented has the most positive impacts, while minimizing negative impacts?

- No Build (No improvements are implemented)
- 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor (C/D) Lanes and Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)
- 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor (C/D) Lanes and Split Diamond Interchange
- 8-Lane General Purpose Lanes and Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)
- 8-Lane General Purpose Lanes and Split Diamond Interchange
- Other Alternative (please indicate) _____

Comments _____

(Continued on back)

