

Chapter 5: Comments and Coordination

This project is committed to using the principles of Context Sensitive Solution (CSS). An important facet of CSS is public involvement and community outreach. As such, the Logan 200 East Project's public involvement plan was developed to provide early, continuous, and meaningful communication with the stakeholders. Project stakeholders include the public, resource agencies, Logan City, the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO), environmental professionals and project managers within the sponsoring agencies. The public involvement plan was developed to facilitate proactive communication between all stakeholders was strategically based on a series of decision points identified at the beginning of the scoping process.

The Logan 200 East Project scoping began by evaluating the transportation needs for 200 East between 300 South and 1400 North. Through an extensive public involvement process and coordination with Logan City and the CMPO, high priority needs were identified for the 200 East corridor. Once these needs were established the project team narrowed the scope of the project area to include the portion of 200 East between 300 South and Center Street.

5.1 Scoping Process

The scoping process began with a public open house that was held on June 6, 2007. The purpose of this open house was to inform residents that Logan City was initiating an environmental study on improvements for the 200 East corridor. The project team presented information regarding the study's proposed schedule, milestones in the environmental study process, and background information on the 200 East project. The project team also solicited feedback to help identify priority areas for improvements along 200 East. Key issues presented during that meeting included:

- What is the Logan 200 East Study?
- What are the geographic limits of the study?
- What is the anticipated schedule?
- What is an environmental study?
- How has the public been involved thus far? And how can I be involved now?

Comments for the June 6th open house focused on concerns regarding the removal of old trees in the area; safety for school children walking along and crossing 200 East; maintaining access to driveways and local parks; improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities; impacts to property value; air and noise pollution.

During the scoping process, members of the public involvement team also met with key stakeholders in the area to identify local concerns surrounding 200 East and proposed transportation improvements in the area.

Additionally, public agencies were invited to participate in the environmental assessment process. Letters were sent informing them of the project location and proposed action and asking for their input. A copy of the invitation letter is represented in Figure 5.1-1, Sample Agency Scoping Letter. Letters were sent to the agencies identified in Table 5.1-1 Agencies Contacted during the Scoping Process:

Table 5.1-1, Agencies Contacted during Scoping Process

Agency
Utah Regulatory Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Uintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Utah Governor's Office, Resource Development Coordinating Committee
Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation
Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians
Kanosh Band, Paiute Indian Tribe
Uintah and Ouray Ute Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall Business Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ogden Service Center
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Utah State Office
Utah Division of Air Quality
Utah Division of Drinking Water
Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
Utah Division of Water Quality
Utah Division of Water Rights
Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management
Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (8EPR-N)
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII



May 14, 2008

Mr. Jason Gipson
Utah Regulatory Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
533 West 2600 South Ste 150
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Subject: Project No. Hpp-LC05(29)
200 East Minor Arterial
Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Gipson:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Utah Department (UDOT), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements along 200 East in Logan, Utah. The improvements include widening 200 East from 300 South to 200 South to create a consistent roadway cross section, connecting 200 East south of Center Street (200 East currently terminates at Center Street and the begins again around 50 South), and improving the intersection of 200 East/Center Street with either a signalized intersection or roundabout. This project began in 2007 as a Categorical Exclusion. A project scoping meeting was held on June 9, 2007 and an intensive public involvement process was initiated. Since that time, FHWA determined that an EA would be better suited for this project due to the property acquisition required for anticipated improvements. An information and background sheet is enclosed for your reference.

Agency input is a key element in determining the scope of environmental issues that will be addressed in the EA. Your agency is invited to submit your scoping issues in writing. Please submit these issues to my attention on official agency letterhead by Friday, June 20, 2008.

We appreciate your timely assistance with the EA and look forward to working with your agency. Please feel free to contact me at (801) 886-9052, should you have any questions or need additional project information.

Sincerely,

Marti Hoge
Environmental Specialist, J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

Figure 5.1-1, Sample Agency Scoping Letter

5.2 Public Participation

In addition to the first public open house held on June 6, 2007, the public involvement process included two other open houses, a project website, project database, project updates sent via email, the creation of a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), presentations to the Logan City Council and Neighborhood Councils, and one-on-one stakeholder interviews.

5.2.1 Public Open Houses

The Logan 200 East project team held three public open houses. All three open houses were in open format style with no formal presentations. At each open house members from the Logan City staff, the CMPO, and the consultant team from J-U-B Engineers, Inc. and The Langdon Group were on hand to answer questions and solicit feedback from the public.

Public Open House # 1 – The first public open house was held on June 6, 2007 at Mount Logan Middle School. As noted above, the purpose of the first open house to inform the public of the proposed project schedule, milestones in the environmental study process, and background information on the 200 East project. Materials presented during the June open house are presented in Appendix C, Public Involvement Summary.

Public Open House # 2 – The second public open house was held on July 31, 2007 at the Logan City Recreation Center. The purpose of the July open house was to respond to public comments that been received thus far, to introduce the CAC, to further explain the steps of the environmental process and to update the public on the status of the project. Key issues presented during the open house included:

- The project's planning and decision making process
- What is the NEPA process and how does it apply to the 200 East project
- How are resource impacts evaluated?
- Existing conditions along 200 East including: the Safe Routes to School plan, existing & planned bicycle facilities, traffic conditions, and differences in cross-sections throughout 200 East
- Major themes from public comments
- Frequently Asked Questions about the 200 East project

Public Open House # 3 – The third public open house was on held on October 9, 2007 at Mount Logan Middle School. The purpose of the third open house was to update the public on the status/schedule of the project, to discuss the narrowed project area and the potential proposed improvements that would be evaluated in the Logan 200 East Environmental Assessment. The following themes were the focal point of the October open house:

- Project milestones
- Other transportation project in Logan City and Cache County
- Updated project schedule
- How the public can be involved?
- How was the project area selected?
- Major themes from public comments

5.2.2 Community Advisory Committee

After the first public open house, the project team developed a Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The goal of the CAC was to discuss in detail the issues pertinent to the Logan 200 East project. Additionally, the CAC was formed to assist in keeping residents informed regarding project activities and schedule. CAC members were asked to serve as local sources for information regarding the project and the community's concerns regarding the project. Logan City supported and encouraged the formation of the CAC as a means to address public concerns continuously throughout the process in an effort to understand residents' concerns and minimize contention surrounding the project. The composition of the CAC included representatives from numerous groups within Logan City (Table 5.2-1, Community Adviosry Committee Members). The project team met three times with the CAC.

Table 5.2-1, Community Advisory Committee Members

Committee Member	Representing
Celia Bennett	Logan City, Resident
Marlene Deer	Logan City, Resident
Derek Jones	Logan City, Resident
Mark Miller	Logan City, Resident
Annette Peterson	Logan City, Resident
Paul Hoth	Adams Neighborhood
Gary Joy	Wilson Neighborhood
Jon Nicolson	Historic Preservation Committee, USU
Mike Monson	Logan School District
Dewey Richardson	Cache Valley Mall
Sandy Emile	Cache County Chamber of Commerce
Jaynan Chancellor	Logan City Biking Community
Joe Archer	Logan City Forester
Russ Akina	Logan City Parks & Recreation
Todd Beutler	Cache Valley Transit District
Mark Nielsen	Logan City Public Works
Paul Lindhardt	Logan City Public Works
Bill Young	Logan City Public Works
Brad Humphreys	Utah Department of Transportation
Mike Worrall	J-U-B Engineers, Inc.
John Powell	J-U-B Engineers, Inc.
Marti Hoge	J-U-B Engineers, Inc.
Dan Adams	The Langdon Group



CAC Meeting # 1 – The CAC convened on July 26, 2007 to introduce the members of the CAC, establish roles and responsibilities for participation on the committee, and establish lines of communication. During the first meeting, the CAC reviewed the project schedule and milestones, discussed the role of the CAC during the environmental study, and reviewed public feedback.

CAC Meeting # 2 – The second CAC meeting was held on August 16, 2008. The purpose of this meeting was review feedback received since the first open house and during stakeholder interviews. Additionally, the CAC was asked to help identify the priority needs for 200 East.

CAC Meeting # 3 – The third CAC meeting was held on September 27, 2008. During this meeting, CAC members assisted in narrowing the range of potential improvements for 200 East. The CAC also reviewed public comments.

5.2.3 City Council and Neighborhood Council Presentations

Throughout the environmental study process the project team members met with the Logan City Council and Neighborhood Councils to update the groups on the status of the project.

5.2.4 One-on-one Stakeholder Interviews

The project team met one-on-one with stakeholders throughout the environmental study process. These meetings were used as a method to distribute information about the project and to gather feedback about local concerns regarding 200 East and the project. Meetings included interviews with stakeholders from key local interests groups such as the biking community, Utah State University, and commercial interests along 200 East. Once the project area had been narrowed and the proposed improvements identified, the project team met one-on-one with project owners along the impacted portion of 200 East.

5.2.5 Other Public Involvement Methods

To augment the public open houses, the CAC, and the stakeholder interviews the project team developed a project website. The website was used to house all pertinent project information such as project updates, information distributed at open house meetings, reference documents, and project contact information. The website was also used to gather comments from public.

Additionally, the project team created a project database to store contact information from all stakeholders who had commented on the project. This database was then used to create a project distribution list that was used to send project updates and alert contacts of upcoming events such as public open houses and city council presentations.

5.3 Comments and Responding to Comments

Comments on the Logan 200 East Project were received throughout the public involvement process. Comments were received via the project website, comment cards from the open houses, interviews with stakeholders, emails to the project team and phone calls on the dedicated project phone number. In most cases, comments were directed at specific topics of concern, while others requested clarification about the project. A summary of comments are included in Appendix C, Public Involvement Summary.

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