

Logan 200 East Public Involvement Summary

I. Project & Public Involvement Overview

The 200 East Environmental Assessment (EA) was initiated to assist the City of Logan, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to determine the best means of increasing mobility and improving safety along the 200 East Corridor. In addition, 200 East is a major route on the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CMPO) Long Range Plan (LRP). Any improvements to the corridor must be consistent with the CMPO's LRP, and the study was directed to enhance connectivity, increase access and mobility for all modes of travel, and improve traffic flow.

Public involvement during the Logan 200 East EA was critical due to the highly populated nature of the study area and the potential impacts of the proposed action to stakeholders living on the corridor. Representatives from UDOT, J-U-B Engineers, and The Langdon Group formed the study team and were heavily involved in all outreach efforts. The study team followed a carefully designed public involvement process meant to engage stakeholders early and build consensus on the study's final result. The project team met one-on-one with interest group representatives and residential stakeholders; distributed numerous informational fliers and newsletters to apprise the public of the study's progress; created a project Web site for informational updates; held three open houses; created a Community Advisory Committee (CAC); and presented continual study updates to the Logan City Council. The project team made every effort to coordinate with Utah State University landscape architects, area cyclists, the Logan City Parks and Recreation Director, Neighborhood Councils, and local irrigation companies.

The initial public involvement effort was broad reaching as Logan City sought input from stakeholders about potential improvements on 200 East between 1400 North and 300 South. As the project funding would not be sufficient to make improvements to the entire corridor, the public involvement process provided the opportunity for the community to identify a specific project area and improvements through open houses and the CAC. The area from Center Street to 300 South became the focus of the Environmental Assessment.

II. Final Public Involvement Report Components

This section provides an overview of public involvement activities, general observations and outreach activities during the 200 East Environmental Assessment. In addition, this section includes the following sub-appendices and resources:

- **Public Involvement Appendix A: Neighborhood Council Presentations**
 - Includes materials presented to Neighborhood and City Councils.
- **Public Involvement Appendix B: Project Collateral/Graphics**
 - Includes any informational sheets, mailers, fliers, etc. created during the project for public distribution, as well as copies of the displays presented at three open houses and the public feedback forms used at each open house to gather community input.
- **Public Involvement Appendix C: Public Meetings**
 - Includes a summary of all public comments received from the June, July, and October 2007 open houses.
- **Public Involvement Appendix D: Project Database**
 - Includes a CD containing the project stakeholder database in Access format, a PDF report of the stakeholder database in its entirety, and an Excel sheet of all stakeholder contact information contained in the database.

- **Public Involvement Appendix E: Media Relations**
 - Includes all press releases and display ads drafted and distributed to the media and a record of all print media articles relative to the project.
- **Public Involvement Appendix F: Project Web Site**
 - Includes an overview of study purpose and need; study process and schedule; explanation of the public involvement effort and issues addressed by the study; description of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC); public open house materials and results; frequently asked questions; current project update; public information contacts; and public comment form.

III. Methods and Process

The Langdon Group worked closely with the study team in all public involvement efforts and relied on this core team for the majority of public interactions. The study team used the methods below to actively involve the surrounding community:

Open Houses:

- **June 6, 2007 Open House** - The study team held the first project open house on June 6, 2007 at Mount Logan Middle School. The open house was attended by area residents, representatives from the study team, Logan City, UDOT, the CMPO and other interest groups and organizations. The purpose of the open house was to present the key issues of the study, namely: How does 200 East fit regionally? What other facilities tie into 200 East? What will traffic look like in the future? Where will traffic go? Where are the accident hot spots, and how do we address them?

At the meeting, the study team presented the study's proposed schedule and solicited public feedback to help identify transportation alternatives for improvements on 200 East.

The primary intent of the open house was to inform the public of the environmental study, the proposed project schedule, and to listen to public comments and concerns for the 200 East corridor. Some transportation topics discussed at the June Open House were:

- The right-of-way between 300 South and 200 South;
- The canal crossing on 200 East;
- Merlin Olsen Central Park; The impact of a fill slope from proposed alternatives;
- Intersection improvements at 200 East and Center Street and a possible roundabout or traffic signal;
- Pioneer Parkway and the demands on heavy on-street parking due to the local farmer's market and other events at the park;
- The impact to mature trees in the area;
- Analyzing the impact to parallel roads and the Logan street network in relation to potential improvements made on 200 East;
- Signal coordination along the 200 East corridor;
- Providing a consistent roadway cross-section along the project area.

Comments from the open house showed particular concern regarding the removal of trees in the study area; safety for school children walking along 200 East; maintaining access to driveways and local parks; bicycle & pedestrian facilities; road widening; impacts to property value; air and noise pollution; the residential and historic feel of the area; parking availability; and traffic volume and safety along 200 East.

- **July 31, 2007 Open House** - The study team held the second open house on July 31, 2007 at the Logan City Recreational Center. The purpose of this open house was to address the feedback received at the June open house and to illustrate how public concerns and transportation impacts would be evaluated. The open house introduced the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) made up of local interest group representatives and stakeholders. A list of these participating members was presented at the event. The transportation alternatives presented at this meeting were vetted by the CAC and the public, who helped evaluate their political feasibility and direct the study towards a preferred alternative. The open house asserted that the completion of the environmental document was scheduled for 2008. At the second open house, the study team explained:
 - How impacts to environmental resources would be determined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, including community concerns related to air quality, tree removal, and environmental and residential impacts;
 - How the public could be involved and how their opinions help shape the outcomes of the study;
 - How various roadway components could be worked into the roadway alternatives;
 - What the Safe Routes to School program was doing to ensure the planning of walking routes to schools in the area.

Additionally, the study team showed a detailed summary of the comments that had been collected at the June open house, and answered specific questions in an open forum. The July open house also asked the public to participate in designing the 200 East roadway. The study team provided a whiteboard with movable design elements - such as sidewalks and stop signs - where open house participants could create an alignment for the 200 East roadway. Several diagrams of the existing problems on 200 East were presented to assist the public in assessing potential transportation alternatives for the study area.

October 9, 2007 Open House - A third open house was held on October 9, 2007 at Mount Logan Middle School. The purpose of this meeting was twofold: 1) to review the 200 East Study process and provide recommendations on proposed projects; 2) invoke community participation in a parallel process with Logan City on improvements identified through the public involvement process but not funded by this study. This second goal would apply remaining improvements identified by the public to the Logan City Long Range Transportation Plan for future consideration. Four criteria were presented to the public at the open house as guidelines used by the lead agencies in the selection of the proposed action:

- Technical Analysis;
- Engineering Feasibility;
- Public Input;
- Project Purpose and Need.

The public also had the opportunity to review a summary of all comments received during the study period. Comments included safety concerns, maintaining neighborhood integrity, aesthetics, environmental preservation, pedestrian and cycling alternatives. The project team wanted to demonstrate to the public that they had accurately heard and acted upon the consensus of the community. The open house also provided a list of current Logan City projects to help inform the public of the City's existing transportation needs and priorities. The public was informed of the final review period for the environmental document and encouraged to participate in the remaining stages of the process. Public feedback was also gathered for inclusion in the environmental analysis.

Community Advisory Committee:

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was composed of area residents, representatives from the Wilson and Adams Neighborhood Councils, the local biking community, the historic preservation group, Logan School District, Cache Valley Transit, Logan Parks, the Chamber of Commerce, Cache Valley Mall, Logan City Public Works Department, CMPO and UDOT. These participants contributed valuable information to the study and guided the selection of the preferred alternative. At the study's outset, All CAC members were provided with informational folders containing materials necessary for their participation in the study.

- **First Community Advisory Committee Meeting; July 26, 2007** - The CAC provided feedback on the proposed action to the consultant team and Logan City. The CAC reviewed the project schedule and discussed the committee's role in the environmental process.
- **Second Community Advisory Committee Meeting; August 16, 2007** - The CAC reviewed the public comments received through stakeholder interviews conducted in June and July and the public open house, and discussed potential transportation alternatives for the study area.
- **Third Community Advisory Committee Meeting; September 27, 2007** - The third CAC meeting was held to narrow the range of potential improvements for a constructible project and to address comments received on the project. The CAC commented on the proposed action. The results of this meeting were presented at the final public open house in October.

The CAC was comprised of the following community representatives:

Celia Bennett	Resident
Marlene Deer	Resident
Annette Peterson	Resident
Gary Joy	Adams Neighborhood
Paul Hoth	Wilson Neighborhood
Jaynan Chancellor	Biking Community
John Nicholson	Historic Preservation
Dewey Richardson	Cache Valley Mall
Sandy Emile	Cache Chamber of Commerce
Mike Monson	Logan School District
Russ Akina	Logan City Parks
Joe Archer	Logan City Forester
Todd Beutler	Cache Valley Transit District
Bill Young	Logan Public Works
Mark Nielsen	Logan Public Works
Paul Lindhardt	Logan Public Works
Jeff Gilbert	CMPO
Brad Humphreys	UDOT

City Council and Special Interest Group Presentations:

- **Presented to Neighborhood Councils and Special Interest Groups; June - July, 2007** - The study team presented the findings from the June and July open houses to various interest groups in the study area. To gather more detailed information for these presentations, members of the public involvement and engineering team met one-on-one with local stakeholders.

One-on-one Stakeholder Interviews

- **Interviews with Key Stakeholders** - The study team met one-on-one with local interest groups, residents, Neighborhood Councils, and representatives from Utah State University through the duration of the study. Once the preferred alternative was identified, there was a need to visit with the individual property owners. The project team met with these property owners to discuss possible impacts from the proposed action.

Public Involvement Schedule

2005 - City of Logan receives \$5.6 million in federal funding for yet to be defined improvement(s) to 200 East.

May 2007 - City of Logan selects J-U-B Engineers to begin a corridor study of possible improvements and to conduct an environmental study. One-on-one stakeholder interviews conducted with a variety of key stakeholders and residents.

June 2007 - The Environmental Analysis of the corridor begins.

June 6, 2007 - First public open house is conducted at Mt. Logan Middle School to clarify the purpose and need of the study.

July 26, 2007 - First Community Advisory Committee meeting. Purpose is to provide feedback from the citizen group to the consultant team and the City. The Committee is composed of representatives from residential groups, businesses, mass transit, schools, historic community, multimodal groups (bikes and paths), the City, etc.

July 31, 2007 - Second public open house conducted at the City of Logan Recreation Center to confirm the public comments received and to understand the values and vision for the corridor.

June and July 2007 - Presented to neighborhood councils and special interest groups. Conducted one-on-one interviews with area stakeholders.

August 16, 2007 - Second Community Advisory Committee meeting to review the public comments, potential improvements, and funding.

September 27, 2007 - Third Community Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the proposed action and to address public and advisory committee feedback.

October 9, 2007 - Third public open house to discuss the proposed action and review community comments.

July 21, 2008 - Project team representatives met with the Adams and Wilson Neighborhood Councils to provide a project update.

*A summary of public comments with more detailed information is included in the attached CD.