

Chapter 4: Comments and Coordination

This chapter describes the program and activities for public involvement, as well as stakeholder and agency coordination, undertaken for the Taylorsville-Murray Transit Environmental Study. Activities included agency and public scoping, a public open house meeting, and distribution of outreach materials. The public involvement, stakeholder, and coordination efforts for the project were designed to be inclusive, comprehensive, transparent, and continuous throughout the course of the project.

4.1 PROJECT TEAM

The Taylorsville-Murray Transit Environmental Study project team consisted of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), the City of Taylorsville, Murray City, Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Salt Lake County, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). Team coordination took place on a monthly basis to discuss the project, the proposed alignment, and other project details.

4.2 SCOPING

Scoping for the Taylorsville-Murray Transit Environmental Study began in October 2012. The purpose of scoping was to provide an early and open opportunity for federal, state, and local agencies to comment on the purpose and need of the proposed project, the alternatives to be considered, and the resources to be evaluated. Scoping was accomplished through hard copy correspondence with federal, state, and local agencies, and Native American tribes. Copies of these coordination letters are provided in Appendix B.

Agency Scoping

Agency scoping was conducted through hard copy correspondence with federal, state, and local agencies. Scoping letters were sent to environmental resource agencies and local entities on October 30, 2012. The purpose of the scoping letters was to inform recipients of the project and invite comments. Scoping letters were sent to the following agencies:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Jordan River Commission

No responses were received from these agencies.

Tribal Coordination and Section 106 Coordination

The project area does not include tribal lands; however, Native American tribes could have an interest in the project due to the potential to discover historic resources. UTA sent scoping letters to SHPO and the following Native American tribes with an interest in historic resources:

- Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation of Utah
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians

No responses were received.

4.3 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

A public open house was held on February 26, 2013, at the SLCC Taylorsville Redwood campus to provide project updates and obtain comments from the public. Approximately 2,000 notices were mailed to residences and businesses in the area. Project information was presented on display boards, and project representatives were available to answer questions.

Approximately 40 people attended the open house, and three written comments were provided. One comment from a resident on Bowling Avenue expressed support for removal of the Casa Linda Apartments. Another Bowling Avenue resident's comment expressed support for the Preferred Alternative as presented, but concern for buses traveling on Bruin Boulevard or Bowling Avenue and termination of Redwood Road access to Bowling Avenue. The third comment, from a resident on Box Elder Street, did not support the overall project, and expressed that existing transit facilities are sufficient and that the residential feel of the area should remain.

4.4 ADOPTION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

UDOT and the Taylorsville and Murray planning and engineering departments have been actively involved in planning the Taylorsville-Murray Transit project. Their input has been incorporated into the development and selection of the Preferred Alternative.

On February 20, 2013, the Taylorsville City Council adopted a resolution in support of the Preferred Alternative. Likewise, the Murray City Council adopted a resolution in support of the Preferred Alternative on March 5, 2013. UTA and WFRC conducted committee meetings on March 27, 2013, and March 28, 2013, respectively, to adopt resolutions supporting the Preferred Alternative.

4.5 NEXT STEPS

The Taylorsville-Murray Transit Environmental Study Report will be circulated for public review and comment, and a public hearing will be held to provide the opportunity for public input on the project. A copy of the environmental study will be available on the project website and at various public locations during the comment period.