

Public Meeting 3 Summary

CDOT hosted a public meeting series in January and February 2025 to provide an update on the progress and recommendations for transportation improvements to the I-270 corridor. Information about the various design improvements under consideration was presented, and participants were asked to share input about the recommended build alternatives moving forward for further analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), any concerns they might have for the I-270 project, how to improve outreach, and how to enhance environmental or community resources.

The Project has made a concerted effort to reach all members of the community who may be interested in providing input by engaging multiple methods of communication to notify the public of the meetings and producing notice materials in both English and Spanish. 58,354 postcards were sent out to both businesses and homes in the surrounding area. Newsletters were distributed to 600 recipients via Mailchimp. Flyers and posters were put up in frequented community locations including Eagle Point Recreation Center, Focus Points Family Resource, Kids First Center, Adam's Hope Center and Swansea Recreation Center. In addition, over 5,000 flyers were provided to schools in Adams 14 District. Both English and Spanish media outlets were contacted for media advisory and press releases. Articles were written by Colorado Community Media, Commerce City Connected, 9News, La Ciudad, Univision and Telemundo. Posts were made on 20 Nextdoor neighborhoods, reaching approximately 32,000 subscribers. Social Media campaigns were launched on CDOT's social media pages along with various community partners' social media accounts. Lastly the Project partnered with various community organizations to help share information about the upcoming meetings including Adams 14 District, Focus Points, Central Park United Neighbors (CPUN), Adelante Community Development, Havana Street Business Improvement District (BID), Boulder Latino Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Restaurant Association (HRA), National Western Center's Community Advisory, Lupitas Camino a la Esperanza, and Impulso Negocio.

In-Person Meetings

Two in-person public meetings were held at the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center in Commerce City. All materials were provided in both English and Spanish. The first meeting was on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. The second meeting was on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) translation services were provided. Food and childcare were also offered at the meeting. In total, 112 people signed in the in-person meetings, including 60 at the January 29 meeting and 52 at the February 1 meeting.

The meetings were structured as an open house format, with exhibit boards set up around the room along with project staff available to discuss the project and answer questions. The boards provided information on the project background, EIS process, alternatives under consideration, design elements, environmental issues of focus in the EIS, and public involvement as listed below. No formal presentation was provided.

- Welcome, Sign-in, and Background Information
 - Welcome (board 1)
 - I-270 at a Glance (board 2)
- Environmental Impact Statement Elements and Alternatives
 - Environmental Impact Statement Activities and Public Engagement (board 3)
 - Purpose and Need (board 4)
 - Alternatives Screening (board 5)
 - Build Alternatives for Detailed Analysis in the EIS (board 6)
 - Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Improvements (boards 7 and 8)
 - Vasquez Boulevard Improvements (board 9)
 - Environmental Impact Assessment Process (board 10)
 - How Impacts are Analyzed (board 11)
- Environmental Issues of Focus in the EIS
 - Socioeconomic conditions and Air Quality (board 12)
 - Streams and Water Quality, Wetlands and Floodplains (board 13)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel and Safety, Recreation and Green Spaces (board 14)
 - Economics and Commerce, Freight (board 15)
 - Hazardous Materials and Wastes, Safety (board 16)
 - Transit Options and Safety, Emergency Services (board 17)
 - Wildlife and Habitat, Aesthetics and Visual Resources (board 18)
- Public Involvement
 - Scoping Process and Input (board 19)
 - Response to Community Input (board 20)
 - Stay Engaged (board 21)

Hard copy comment forms were available in English and Spanish at the in-person meetings.

Online Webinar

Two online webinar and question and answer sessions were held on Zoom Thursday, January 30, 2025, and Tuesday, February 4, 2025. The webinar presentation materials were presented in both English and Spanish with live Spanish and ASL translation available. Forty-one people attended the webinars. Interactive polls captured attendee input during the webinar, and attendees were encouraged to fill out the online comment form or email the project team.

The webinar consisted of a 40-minute presentation with interactive polls and 20-minute question and answer session. The presentation summarized the background of I-270, the EIS process and scoping, purpose and need of the corridor improvements project, schedule, public involvement activities, the alternatives considered, the alternatives and design elements recommended for full analysis in the EIS, and environmental considerations.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

Participants were encouraged to attend the Saturday February 1, 2025 in-person public meeting or review the public meeting boards posted on CDOT's website for additional more detailed information. A recording of the webinar is available on CDOT's website.

Summary of Public Input

At both in-person meetings, attendees talked with project staff and other attendees about the project and how they could get involved. The attendees were engaged and many filled out comment forms and/or left comments on a post-it note.

The themes of the comment forms received reflect the in-person discussions with staff. Themes included suggestions about:

- Project direction, schedule, and funding
- Project alternatives
- Project construction process, impacts, and timeline
- Location-specific needs or recommendations for design improvements on the preliminary designs
- Feedback on proposed non-roadway bicycle or pedestrian improvements
- Express Lane operations and monetary considerations
- Opportunities for environmental or community enhancements
- Community and public engagement

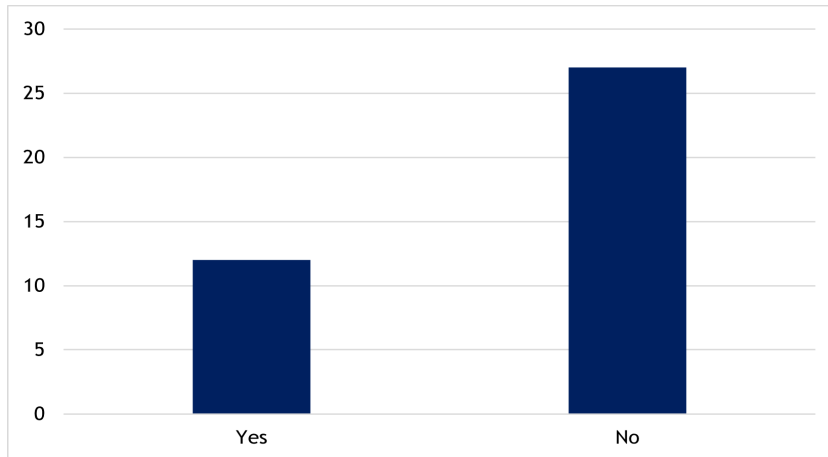
Comment forms

The following section details the comments received from the 39 hard copy comment sheets collected at the in-person meetings, 1 online comment form, and 3 emails to the project email received between January 29 and February 7. The questions and results are summarized below.

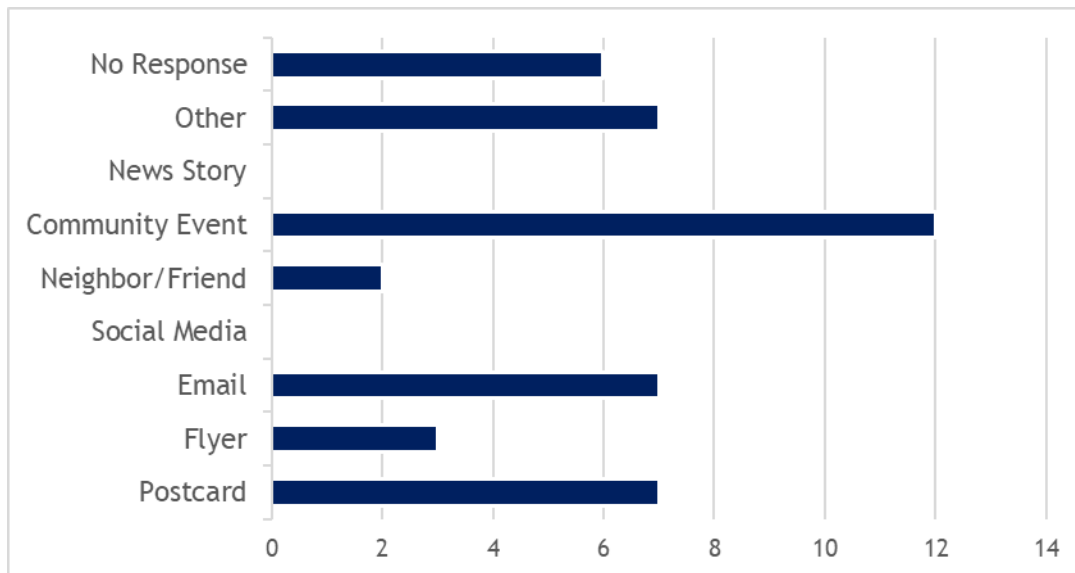


I-270 Corridor Improvements

Would you like to be added to the project email list?



How did you hear about the meeting?



The “Other” category included word of mouth from community workers and leaders and walk-ins. Some people heard about the meeting through multiple sources and indicated as such in their responses.

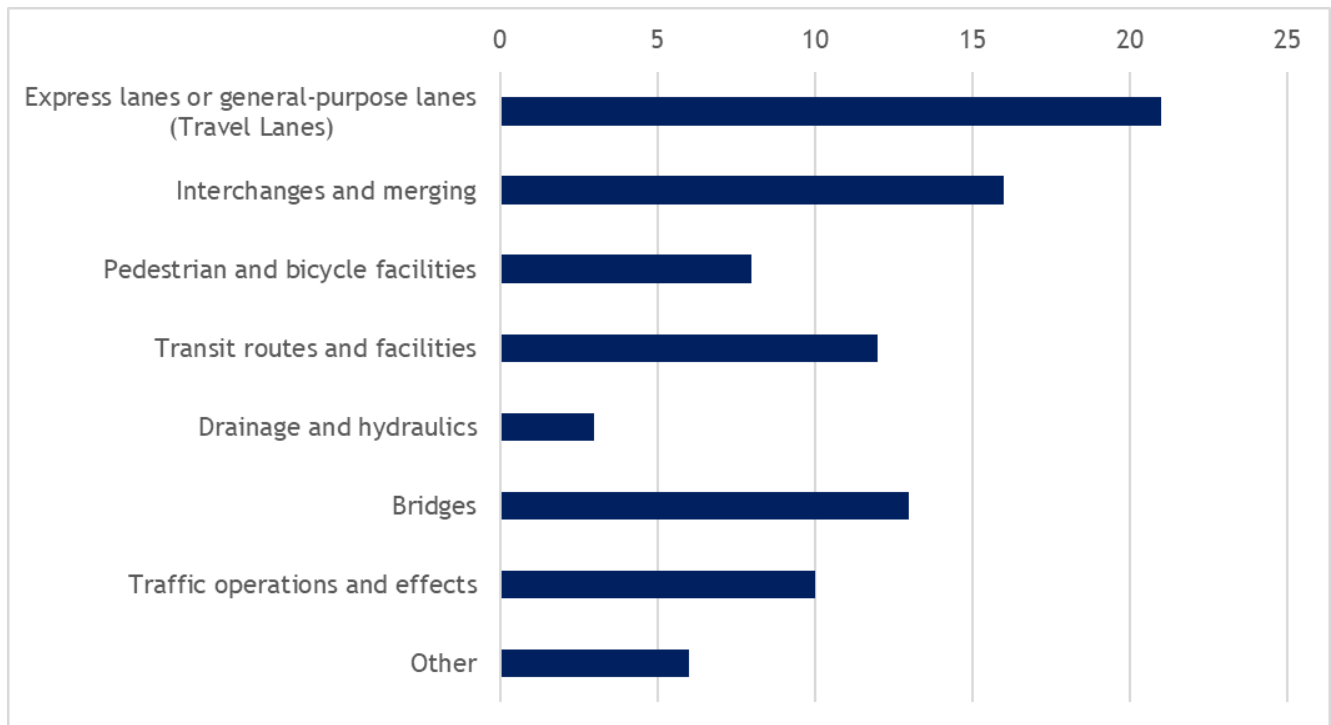
Comments about Project Elements and Environmental Issues

The comment form asked questions about project elements and environmental concerns. Answers to the multiple-choice questions are summarized below. The summary of answers to the open-ended questions are combined and categorized by themes.



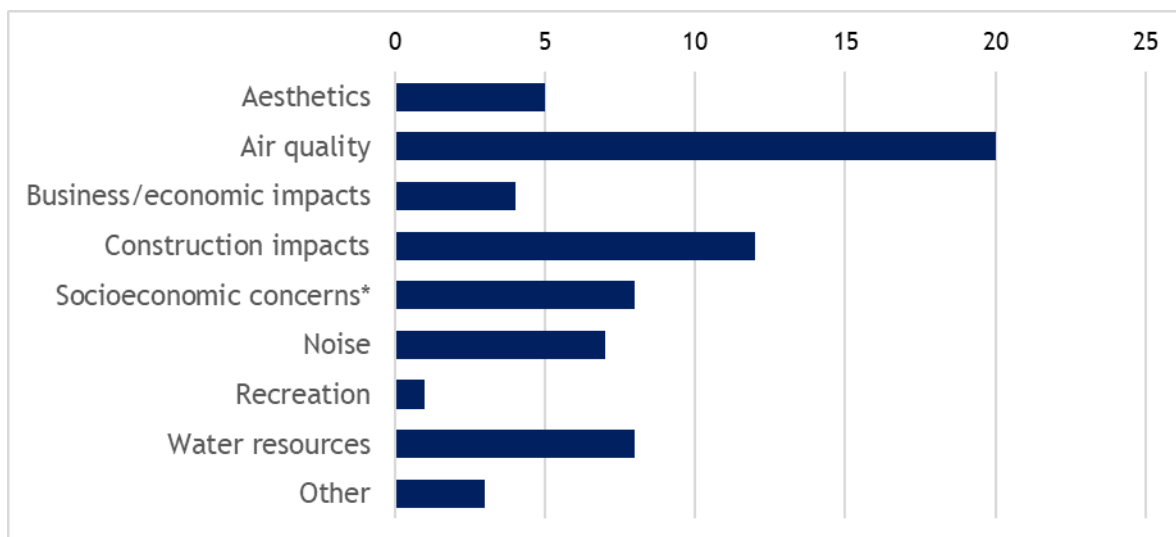
I-270 Corridor Improvements

Are there project elements that you would like to learn more about? (check all that apply)



Responses provided with selection of “Other” included suggestions for pollution and hazardous material mitigation, environmental impacts and health, summaries of EIS surveys, and outreach.

What environmental issues are you most concerned about? (check all that apply)



**Previously presented in comment forms as environmental justice*

Responses provided with selection of “Other” included remediation of previous pollution created by the highway, polluted soil, and added traffic.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

Open-ended questions about alternatives

The comment form contained the following open-ended questions about the alternatives:

- What do you think are the biggest issues, needs, or concerns for the I-270 project?
- What could we do to improve the project or outreach opportunities?
- Do you have ideas that could enhance environmental or community resources in the project area?
- Do you have any other suggestions, comments, questions, feedback or anything else to share?

Of the 39 respondents, 30 responded to the first question, 26 responded to the second question, 17 responded to the third question, and 21 responded to the fourth question. Input from the responses is combined in this summary due to the overlap in topics and input. Respondents expressed support for the project direction and shared their preferred alternative, suggested other project elements, provided specific feedback about Express Lanes, observed opportunities for environmental or community enhancements, and commented on public outreach. The comments are provided verbatim organized into these categories.

Support for Project

- I agree completely with both alternatives. This project has been a long time coming.
- Please do whatever needs to be done to make this project happen! Traffic is terrible on 270, and improvement is needed ASAP! The residents around 270 need this to happen, so please push to make it happen! Thanks for all you do at CDOT to keep us safe on the roads all year long! Please do not delay on this project—it is desperately needed!
- I believe this is a very needed project to improve traffic and reduce driving time to connect with I-25, I-70, and US 36. Commerce City needs more projects like this to improve the community well-being.
- Expansion in general and creating a shoulder on 270 because there isn't currently and it's been a problem for years.
- I have been in favor of widening the I 270 corridor for what seems to be forever. I frequently use it for my travels between Aurora and Boulder. It should be the best alternative to using the I-70 to I-25 to 36 route and the C 470 toll road. The toll amounts to approximately \$25.00 each way which is way too high. Also the much newer toll road is being widened before the much older 270. Can you please help us out?

Alternatives

- We prefer the 2 general purpose lanes and expressway alternative.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

- I think the express lane idea would be the better choice as it encourages public transit and carpooling, which are better for the environment. The money generated from the tolls could also go to the continued monitoring of pollution along 270 as well as other mitigation efforts.
- I feel like a free third lane would be best because it would provide 3 lanes to flow freely. Unfortunately, I feel an express lane would still cause congestion.
- I would prefer 3 general purpose lanes. I don't want tolls.
- Having driven 270 frequently at all times of day, I believe that nothing less than adding one general lane in each direction would be best.
- You need more lanes!! Two more lanes are not enough.
- Definitely need another lane, regardless if it's express or not.
- A general lane should be added to both sides to reduce traffic.
- My biggest concern is time. I am a resident of the Northfield/Central Park area and want these improvements made as soon as possible. The traffic here is terrible on 270.

Location-Specific Ideas and Recommendations for other Elements

- Lighting - a need for environmentally friendly lighting along 270 and on trails near the area.
- Easing traffic at Vasquez on-ramps. Additional transit options along 270.
- The backups and appearance, human and auto separation.
- Preventing backups onto I-270 from other roads such as I-25 N. Alleviating bike access across I-270 and I-76 into Commerce City.
- To have sidewalks from light rail.
- Widen I-270 by one lane in each direction. Exit ramps should be stoplight-controlled at intersecting streets. On the north side, add a frontage road from York to Quebec for exiting vehicles.
- When traffic comes off 270 onto I-25 northbound, trucks have to merge to the left and gain speed to go uphill. This should be a double turn from I-270 to I-25 northbound. Slow down the whole system.

Express Lanes and Monetary Considerations

- No tolls—we pay enough tax.
- I do not want express lanes on 270.
- I don't want the toll or express lanes.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

- If an express lane is built, have discounted prices for 80022 residents. It is not fair to ask people to pay to have access to get out of their neighborhood.
- Express lanes—unsure if having this option available on 270 makes sense for a short length. It may cause additional congestion for vehicles to merge left into the lane, then cross back over to exit.
- Not a fan of using the toll lane. Merging out of it would be hazardous.
- Resources for lower-cost express lane passes.
- Express lanes or general-purpose lanes—keep them affordable.

Environmental Enhancements and Other Suggestions/Observations

- More plants and maintain a cleaner environment. Better roads.
- Please make access and exits for animals that are crossing these lanes or create a path under to reduce the death of them.
- Clean up/maintaining/more greenery. Fewer potholes.
- This area has historically been polluted by multiple industries, landfills, and is adjacent to a Superfund site. I would like to see an environmental assessment and ongoing monitoring through the project to improve public health.
- Pollution in my lungs.
- Air quality, environmental justice, noise, water resources—these must be addressed.
- Increase public transit so that it could be a real option for no-car families. Affordable housing near transportation corridors that the project is in alignment with city, county, and regional master plans.
- Making a transit lane like what is being done on I-25 will alleviate some commute traffic, but they need to connect to other transit hubs to be useful.
- Would be nice if the asphalt along Sand Creek Trail were replaced. Not very pleasant to smell asphalt when walking or running on Sand Creek Trail.
- Adding a Flatiron Flyer stop at the Central Park Station would be a big help for those who live in the neighborhood and commute to Boulder.

Communication/Outreach

- Increase your social media outreach so young Coloradans are able to be reached. Keep doing the workshops because information is half the battle. If folks know the intentions behind it + the steps of the project, you can't go wrong.
- Inform the population through social networks and local newscasts.
- Try reaching out to nonprofits for help in comments to increase public engagement. You could also reach out to the universities in Denver like MSU or CU Denver to tap



I-270 Corridor Improvements

into students studying environmental engineering and work together to solve this problem.

- Listen to our concerns and put our ideas to city/state council.
- Publicize the meetings via TV so more people are aware of the project.
- I'm not sure if this has happened yet, but I would like to see confirmation that affected homes and businesses were visited and informed of the proposal. What were their concerns?
- Partnerships with local orgs, schools, churches, NPOs, and community leaders.
- Request a review of continuous turn lanes from 270 at major congestion points to allow traffic not to be bottlenecked at the exit ramps from 270.
- Will there be any electronic signage about delays or travel times?
- Would have appreciated approximate costs of the two suggested plans.

Other

- Why is it going to take four years to do it?
- I am building a commercial building for 14 businesses. They will locate there for the visibility. Please no sound barrier. Maintain visibility for businesses.
- I still believe that continuous turn lanes from York/I-76 to Vasquez and Vasquez to Quebec and eastbound and Quebec to Vasquez and Vasquez to York/I-76 westbound would be the best and cheapest way to help traffic flow.
- The I-70 improvements that were done recently helped eastbound, but westbound at I-25 will be the largest issue. At that point, three highways merge together. Not sure what can be done there.
- Transparent budgeting and contractor information.
- Thank you for the burritos.
- Bad roadway damage on entrance to I-76 at 74th—needs fixed.
- The condition of the pavement. It needs to be rebuilt to the base. An additional general-purpose lane is needed and at this time is necessary to travel the 270 section.
- I work in Boulder and live near the Central Park Station. I would love a transit option at the CP station on FF5 or another option that doesn't route all the way to Union Station.

Roll Plot Comments

Attendees were also given the opportunity to provide feedback by placing sticky notes directly on a roll plot diagram of the project. This interactive approach allowed participants



I-270 Corridor Improvements

to pinpoint specific locations and elements of concern, suggest improvements, and highlight key areas of interest. The roll plot served as a visual tool to facilitate discussion, helping to capture detailed, location-specific input that will be considered as the project moves forward. Post-it comments are written verbatim below:

Figure 1. Photo of a Roll Plot Diagram



York Street Inset

- Crosswalks for pedestrian movements?
- Lights - priority for emergency response?

South Platte Inset

- I believe this is Adco Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Arts for this portion of S. Platte. Any opportunity to team up with them for wayfinding?

56th Avenue Inset

- If signalized, any opportunity for leading pedestrian interval for pedestrian crossing?
- Add stop signs or traffic signals at E 56th & Sand Creek Drive OR E 56th and Eudora. If signalized - emergency priority on lights.
- Put a traffic signal at 56th/Eudora for safety reasons and allow people to turn left from S Sand Creek. Right now, people drive fast and hard to cross.
- Stop light pedestrian crossing lights.

Overall View

- Add traffic light symbols where new, replaced, or removed.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

- The pedestrian overpass does not connect to sidewalks. Add sidewalks/walking connections.
- Truck parking problems (by TA truck stop / Quebec).
- WB 56th drivers at Vasquez make a right turn from the straight lane. (*Causes accidents.*)
- I would like to see the project completed as soon as possible! And it to last less than 5 years.
- I prefer the express lane because funding could help build roads faster, and access could be better for managing traffic.
- No express lane. Need 3+ free lanes.
- Should've been built the first time with 3 or 4 lanes in each direction.
- Freight traffic access should be prioritized for the betterment of all traffic.
- Intersection at Vasquez and E 58th Place is dangerous and confusing. Fix.
- Really like the left turn on 56th from I-270 eastbound exit.
- Add auxiliary lane between Vasquez and Quebec.
- Lots of trucks from Sapp Bros Travel Center and TA Travel Center.
- Add RRFB at trail crossing location of N Sand Creek Dr.
- Need lighting for Sand Creek Greenway.
- Are there sidewalks on Niagara or Magnolia? If so, move the pedestrian overpass up a bit from Niagara or Magnolia.
- Let the public know about the direct future express flyover to/from Central 70.

Pedestrian Bridge Inset

- The pedestrian bridge should be moved closer to Quebec—closer to where pedestrians will be (by TA) to businesses on the south side. Do not want this going to neighborhoods.
- The height of the pedestrian bridge needs to be high enough over any other... *high road? (Unclear wording—needs clarification.)*

South Platte Inset

- Coordinate with Adams County Open Spaces to add local art on trails.
- Bike trails are popular routes for commuting, especially in warm weather—trails need to remain open during any construction.

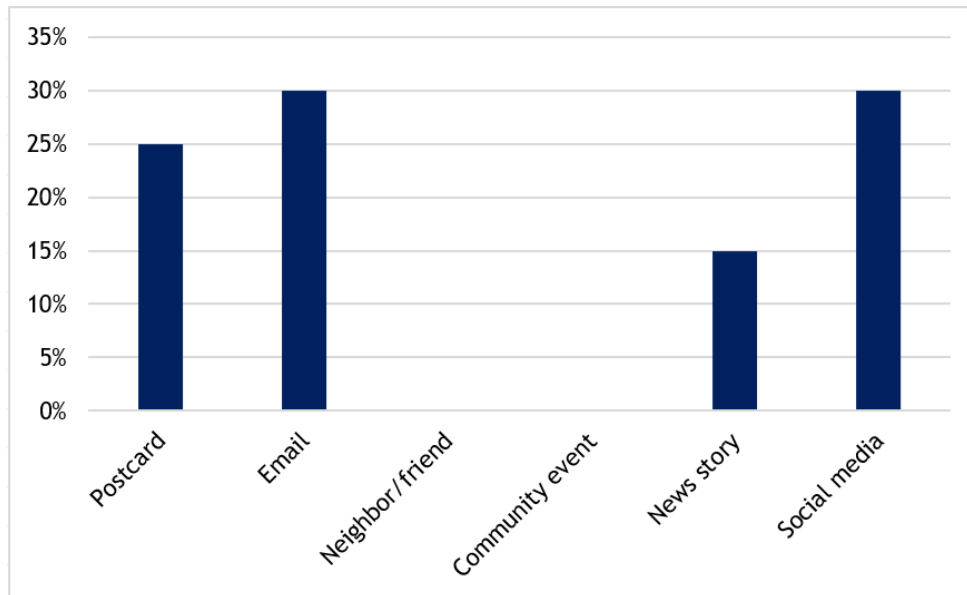


I-270 Corridor Improvements

Webinar poll responses

The live webinars included seven live polling questions. Four of the questions were multiple choice, and three of the questions were free response. Participants were able to see the poll results during the webinar. The questions and responses are summarized below.

How did you hear about this webinar?

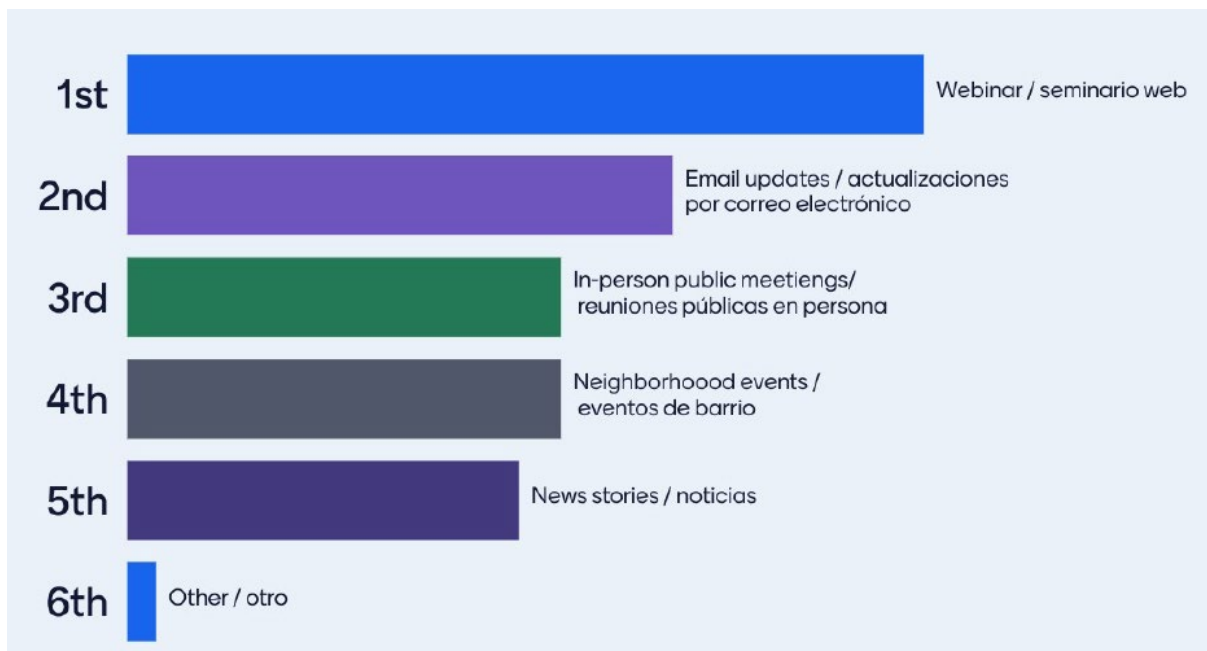


Combined results from both webinars

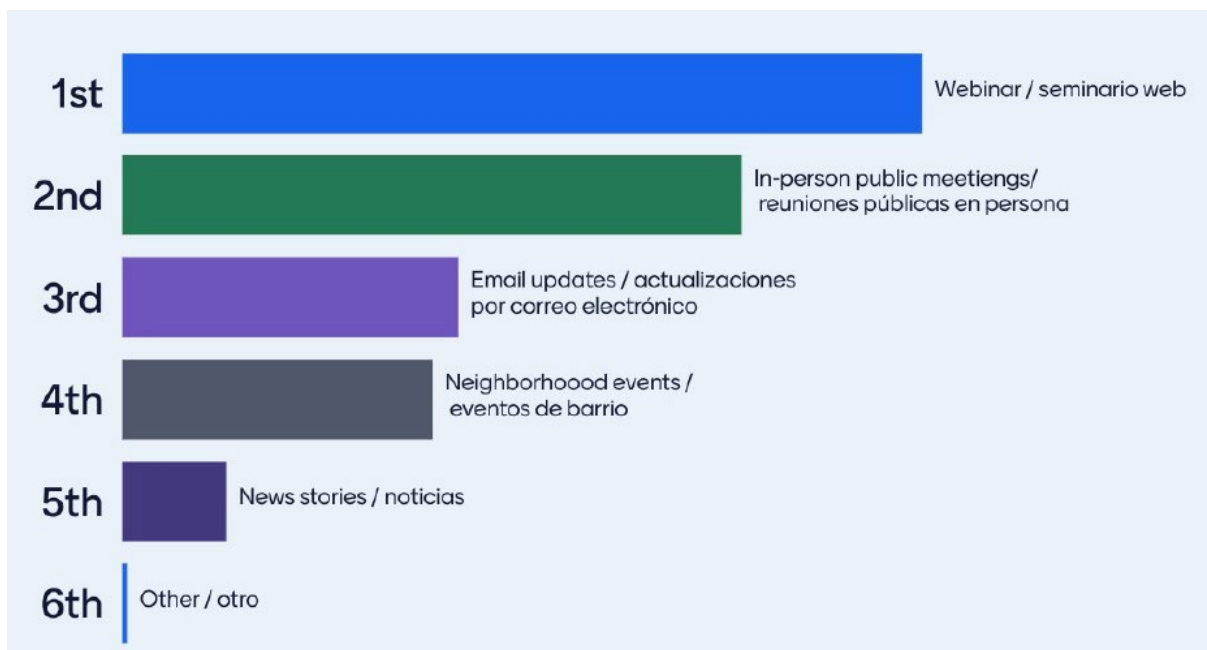


I-270 Corridor Improvements

How would you like to stay engaged with the I-270 project? (ranked)



Results from January 30, 2025 webinar

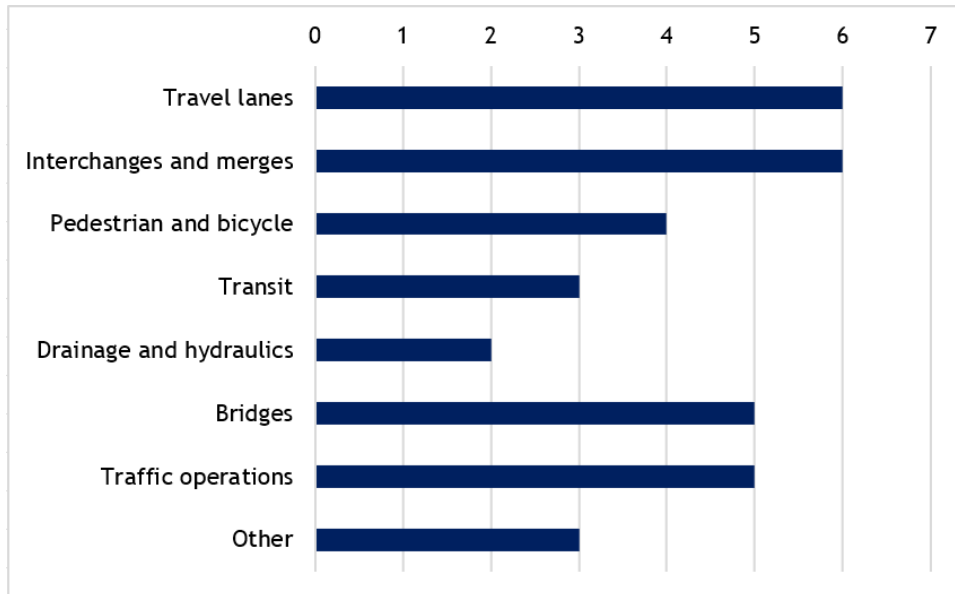


Results from February 4, 2025 webinar



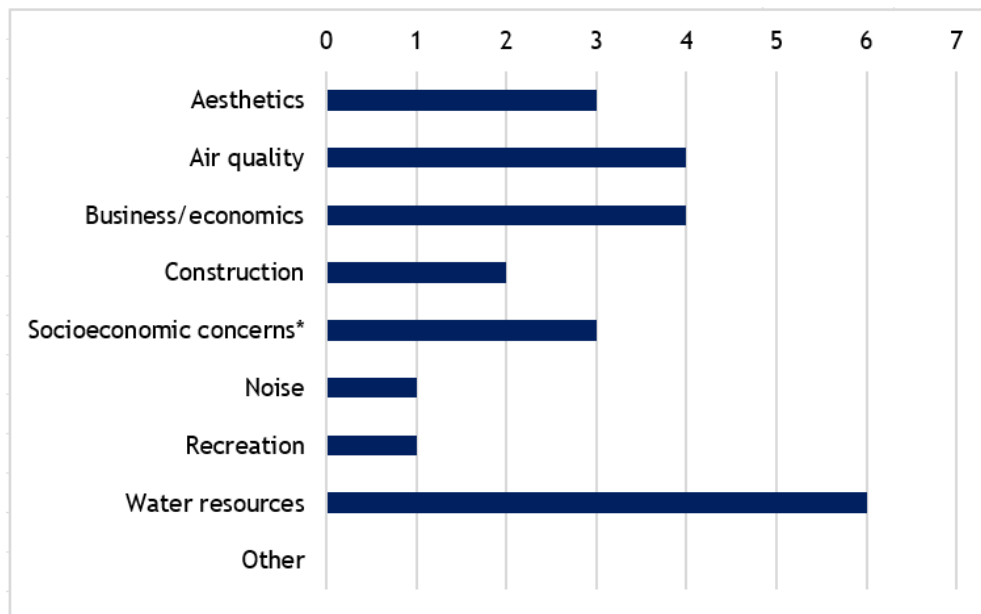
I-270 Corridor Improvements

Are there project elements that you would like to learn more about?



Combined results from both webinars

What environmental issues are you most concerned about?



Combined results from both webinars

Attendees were also asked the following questions in which they were able to provide a free response answer.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

What are the big issues, needs, or concerns for the I-270 project?

What are big issues, needs, or concerns for the I-270 project? ¿Cuáles son los grandes problemas, necesidades o preocupaciones del proyecto I-270?

27 responses



Results from January 30, 2025 webinar

What are big issues, needs, or concerns for the I-270 project? ¿Cuáles son los grandes problemas, necesidades o preocupaciones del proyecto I-270?

18 responses



Results from February 4, 2025 webinar

While we received a total of 34 different responses, the most common concerns included congestion and safety.



I-270 Corridor Improvements

What could we do to improve the project or outreach opportunities?

Responses from January 30, 2025 webinar:

- Community events
- Interview with Kyle Clark on 9 news
- Continual communication. Interviews with all news stations
- Share how the project will be funded
- Progress images when build out begins
- More emails
- Onsite info distribution, stores an key locations
- Share the public comments submitted on the NOI

Responses from February 4, 2025 webinar:

- Project should address i70 i270 direct express lane connection.
- Make presentations to the community
- Will the project consider using pavement or concrete for the new roadway surface of the project?
- What will be the transportation impacts while construction is happening?
- Send emails
- How will pollution be mitigated?
- Address speed/safety issues with camera systems
- Has a funding source been identified for the build construction portion of the project?
- How three lanes (express or GP) will connect at i70 when currently 2 do

Do you have ideas that could enhance environmental or community resources?

Responses from January 30, 2025 webinar:

- Wetland restoration
- Industrial disposal enhancement
- Free HOV lane for a year

Responses from February 4, 2025 webinar:

- Partner with an environmental organization in the planning
- Where can I see the environmental information?
- Colorado-scape the ROW around 270
- Green areas in the surrounding area
- How will wildlife be affected?