

Stakeholder Workshop #8

Location: Eagle Pointe Recreation Center

Date/Time: October 29, 2024 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose: Discuss topics identified for further discussion by stakeholders. Tonight's topics included reviewing scoping, Notice of Intent (NOI), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, next steps, upcoming public meetings, and stakeholder working group participation in EIS moving forward.

Discussion

Welcome and review of last workshop

Participants introduced themselves. A summary of the last workshop was included in the briefing book. Inserts to the briefing book were distributed to provide information and background for tonight's discussions.

Scoping, Notice of Intent, and EIS Process

Mandy Whorton reviewed the briefing book materials explaining the EIS process, scoping process, the NOI, and the next steps in the EIS.

- Scoping: The scoping process was defined and activities completed to date were summarized.
- NOI: The purpose of an NOI was explained, and stakeholder concerns were addressed. Transparency in this process is important and participants were invited to share their thoughts.
- Outcomes and Next Steps: The steps ahead in the EIS were outlined, emphasizing the ongoing role of public and agency engagement.

Comments and Discussion:

- Questions arose regarding the NOI publication and notification process. The NOI was published on the project website, and future notifications will include e-blasts for better outreach.
- Clarification was requested on the EIS timeline and why the process is intensive. It was explained that traffic modeling and analysis of existing conditions take considerable time and must be compared to alternatives for impact assessment. Other stakeholders brought up concerns about how the projects potential to contribute to climate change and supports the intensive process so the best decision is made for future generations.
- A participant asked how CDOT is responding to GreenLatinos' NOI letter which stated concerns about the timing and public notification process of the NOI. It was confirmed that their comments will be part of the official record and that CDOT will.
- Some participants expressed concern about whether the community is fully represented in the stakeholder meetings. While many residents and nonprofit leaders felt the process was inclusive and would like to see more consistency in attendance.
- A comment emphasized the importance of building trust between the lead agencies and stakeholders, with a strong expectation for transparency throughout the entire process. Stakeholders conveyed that being fully informed enhances their ability to support the project.

- When asked how they can support the project, stakeholders were encouraged to promote public meeting attendance, sign up for e-blasts, and inform local community groups.
- Stakeholders requested updates on air quality. Air quality findings have been delayed and are expected in January.

Stakeholder Working Group:

An open discussion was led on what the stakeholders would like to see on ongoing stakeholder workshop participation, specifically asking for feedback on frequency, format, and topics for future meetings. The team reiterates the importance of trust and inclusivity in these workshops. CDOT is also committed to enhancing the format and communication channels as needed to ensure effective stakeholder engagement. Key questions and responses included:

- Interest in Continuing: The group expressed a desire to continue monthly meetings.
- Topics of Interest: Stakeholders shared suggestions on focus areas for future meetings, with the group agreeing on monthly e-blasts to ensure information is being consistently shared with the public.
- Format and Length: Most participants were satisfied with the format and length of the workshops. CDOT is open to adjustments as needed.
- Usefulness of Briefing Book and Guest Speakers: Participants appreciated the briefing materials and guest presentations. They found them helpful for understanding complex topics and processes.

Conclusion

The group agreed to hold the next workshop on November 19, 2024, to focus on the EIS process and timeline and to learn more about public input is being incorporated into the project.