

Stakeholder Workshop #9

Location: Adams 14 Education Foundation

Date/Time: November 19, 2024 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose: Discuss topics identified for further discussion by stakeholders. Tonight's topics included reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, scoping input and how it is incorporated, 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.

EIS process review

Mandy Whorton reviewed the briefing book materials explaining the EIS process and the recent changes to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. It was explained that the EIS process is designed to be robust and inclusive, addressing a wide range of concerns and options.

Scoping Input and Responses

Through feedback gathered from stakeholder workshops, comment forms, emails, hotline calls, public meetings, agency meetings, and staff interviews, hundreds of suggestions for the scope of the I-270 EIS and project have been gathered. CDOT is using this input to shape the EIS to reflect both agency and public priorities. A few examples of what we've heard and what CDOT is doing were shared in the briefing book and discussed.

Comments and Discussion:

- How are pedestrian elements incorporated into alternatives, and how will they be evaluated in the EIS process.
 - The bicycle and pedestrian elements are included in all the alternatives, including the two build alternatives being evaluated in detail in the EIS.
- Stakeholders expressed concerns regarding the safety of the I-270 bridges at 60th and 56th Avenues. CDOT has applied for grants to address bridge issues and is collaborating with the railroad and the city to develop a solution. A separate NEPA process will be required for the bridges.
 - Concerns were noted about frequent flooding at underpasses. The railroad company plans to replace the bridge, which will require the removal of 60th Avenue. This process will involve a planning grant, and decisions about 60th Avenue will need to be made before work on the bridges begins. CDOT will consult with relevant agencies, including Wildlife Flood, to address flooding concerns. Stakeholders agreed that enhancements are needed and requested additional information to share with the public.

- Questions were raised about specific design features decisions, such as lighting and median heights. It was clarified that these elements are typically addressed during the final design phase but must be considered to align with the construction process.
- Stakeholders emphasized the need to address road improvements around I-270, including Brighton Boulevard and Old Town Road, to mitigate broader traffic issues.
 - o It was noted there is an overlap with other projects in the area and emphasized the importance of completing these improvements beforehand. Brighton Boulevard is expected to be finished by 2028.
 - o CDOT expressed interest in increasing discussions about Brighton Boulevard during the stakeholder workshops.
- A question was raised about how the recent Chevron ruling might impact the NEPA process. It was clarified that current regulations serve as the guiding framework for the process.
- Various pedestrian walkways were discussed, focusing on their potential effects on neighborhood connectivity and safety.

Conclusion

The group expressed interest in continuing the meetings next year, with a preference for in-person sessions. They highlighted several focus areas for future discussions. These topics include: developing a multimodal vision, receiving updates on modeling processes and project status, inviting more guest speakers, understanding the impacts of trucks, addressing environmental justice concerns, exploring future project visions, and conducting design reviews.