



## 5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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The public involvement program for the SH 392 EOS was designed to provide study updates and to encourage public input, participation and review in the planning and alternative analysis process. The program targeted local agency and specific audiences within one-half mile of the existing SH 392 alignment. Public involvement was part of an overall communication program that involved community relations, media relations, and agency coordination that continued throughout the study. These efforts included newsletters, direct mailings, open houses, small group meetings, a Web site, press releases, paid advertisements, and maintenance of contact phone numbers, e-mails, and mailing addresses.

All public meetings were documented in Open House Summary Reports. Documentation included copies of newsletters, meeting notes, attendance sheets from small group meetings, presentation boards, written and verbal comments, attendance sheets from public open house meetings, Web site comment summaries, and newspaper articles featuring the study. These materials are available for review at the CDOT Region 4 offices at 1420 2nd Street, Greeley, Colorado 80632.

### 5.1 Communication with Public

Communication with the public and local agencies was accomplished in a variety of ways. In addition to three public open houses, small group meetings were held with community civic groups, and presentations were made to city councils, advisory boards, and planning commissions. Newsletters to residents and other interested parties kept the general public apprised of study progress. A project Web site offered information about the study and supplied boards from public meetings for those that could not attend in person. Regular meetings with CDOT, FHWA and local agencies were held as described below.

Solicitation of public input began with study inception in September 2004. Comments were collected through the variety of venues previously described. Specific comments were addressed by conducting additional technical analyses and/or providing more detailed information to stakeholders on a case-by-case basis. Major issues included:

- Interest in capacity improvements to the I-25/SH 392 interchange (though excluded from this study and being studied by the North I-25 EIS)
- Capacity improvements to accommodate projected traffic volumes
- ROW required to accommodate the capacity improvements
- Possible alternatives around the town of Windsor and Duck Lake
- Protection of the natural environment around Duck Lake
- Opposition to the M1-R Alternative around Windsor



### 5.1.1 Newsletters

A contact database of nearly 1,500 businesses and households was maintained throughout the study. The database included property owners, elected officials, media representatives, homeowners associations, civic groups, business owners and people who requested to be included on the mailing list. This list was used to distribute three newsletters that were produced and distributed prior to each open house. The newsletters provided study updates, and invited recipients to upcoming open house meetings.

### 5.1.2 Web site

The study Web site (<http://www.dot.state.co.us/sh392eos>), launched in June 2005, was advertised through study newsletters mailed to residents and distributed at public meetings. The site was designed to provide access to study information, study schedule, frequently asked questions, meeting announcements, exhibits from open house meetings, and other related information. Displays and handouts from each open house were posted to the Web site typically within two weeks after each meeting. From June 2005 to February 2006, the site had more than 90,000 visitors.

### 5.1.3 Public Open Houses

Three public open house meetings, consisting of a three hour open format period, were held between May 2005 and January 2006. These meetings were held at public venues near SH 392 to provide opportunities for the public to learn about the study, ask questions, and provide comments and input. The setting of these open house meetings generally included technical information presented on 51-inch by 33-inch boards. Information about existing traffic, safety, and environmental conditions was presented. Proposed alignments and templates of proposed transportation improvements were also presented, as was the disposition of alternatives following analysis and screening. Comment sheets were provided to the public in order to obtain their written comments about the project. The total attendance of the three open houses was 340 people. The schedule and attendance of open house meetings is shown in Table 5.1.

Public involvement summary reports were prepared after each open house to document the information presented, advertising, media coverage, attendance, and comments received. These reports are included in the public record.

**Table 5.1  
Public Open Houses Conducted**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
May 25, 2005 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Windsor Recreation Center 250 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor	56
August 24, 2005 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Windsor Town Hall 301 Walnut Street, Windsor	140
January 25, 2006 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Windsor Town Hall 301 Walnut Street, Windsor	144



In addition to these three scheduled open house public meetings, SH 392 EOS project team members attended open houses hosted by other EOS and NEPA studies being conducted in CDOT Region 4 to produce a region-wide information sharing effort. This effort was conducted to promote study identity and help the public understand which study was evaluating each corridor. Team members attended three open houses for the US 287 EOS between May 2005 and January 2006, and attended one North I-25 EIS meeting in June 2005. At these meetings, project team members were available to answer questions regarding the SH 392 EOS study.

#### 5.1.4 Communication with Other Interested Parties

Small group meetings were held by request to provide a dialogue with the communities along SH 392. These included civic groups such as the Windsor Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club. Opportunities for small group meetings were encouraged in study newsletters, on the Web site, and via direct requests to the project team.

#### 5.1.5 Media

To provide timely and accurate press and broadcast media coverage of the SH 392 EOS, calendar alerts, press releases, and media advisories were produced throughout the study when decision points were reached and in advance of each public open house meeting. The study received media coverage in local news publications, including the *Greeley Tribune*, *Windsor Beacon*, *Fort Collins Coloradoan*, on local broadcast radio, and on Denver Metro television. Paid advertisements were also printed in local newspapers to promote public interest and participation in the study process. A public relations firm assisted the study at public meetings.

### 5.2 Communication with Public Agencies

Coordination was conducted with Federal, state, and local agencies by phone, written correspondence, e-mail, and at formal meetings to ensure agency input was considered in the study recommendations. Agency coordination meetings were scheduled early in the study to facilitate open communication with local jurisdictions and policy makers so that the screening process and environmental analysis were responsive to the concerns of agencies and local stakeholders. A regular meeting schedule was established for this purpose and included a Project Review Team and Agency Coordination Team.

#### 5.2.1 Project Review Team

The Project Review Team consisted of study personnel from CDOT and the consultant team with oversight by FHWA. Monthly meetings were scheduled to coordinate resources and facilitate decision making. This group was responsible for the day-to-day decisions through the screening process and environmental analysis. Meeting minutes and action items were prepared for each meeting.

#### 5.2.2 Local Agency Coordination Team

The Local Agency Coordination Team met quarterly in the beginning of the study and switched to monthly meetings beginning in September 2005. The group consisted of study personnel from



CDOT, the consultant team, and staff from the NFRMPO, Larimer and Weld counties, Windsor, Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, and Severance. This group reviewed study progress and ensured consistency with local transportation plans. Meeting minutes and action items were prepared for each meeting.

Meetings with individual agencies were also held to supplement the Agency Coordination Team. These meetings were held to gain additional information and seek input and feedback from the agencies on the study's findings and recommendations.

### 5.2.3 Councils, Commissions, Advisory Boards

The EOS project team provided study briefings to community councils and boards. Briefings to elected officials included study findings and recommendations and sought input and feedback from the boards. Information left with these councils and boards included materials such as project alignments and comparison of effects. Briefings were provided to the following:

- Windsor Town Board
- Windsor Planning Commission
- Fort Collins City Council
- Fort Collins Natural Resources Advisory Board
- Fort Collins Transportation Board
- Larimer County Planning Commission
- Larimer County Open Space Advisory Board