

CHAPTER 4 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

Before any action is taken on a proposed project, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) identifies issues related to the project that merit further study. This process is called scoping. It is important during the scoping process for UDOT to coordinate with the public that could be impacted by the project and with agencies that oversee the management of natural resources, public services, and planning in the study area.

Chapter 4 documents the public scoping process for the proposed widening project. It describes the environmental scoping process and the tools used in the process, including strategies for both providing information to the public about the proposed widening project and soliciting input from the public on the environmental document.

4.1 AGENCY SCOPING

Agencies help UDOT to identify issues that should be analyzed during the study and to help determine whether any permits or approvals would be needed for construction.

UDOT sought input from agencies that have jurisdiction in the study area. Agency comments, along with public input and technical analysis, helped UDOT study and refine proposed widening project alternatives. In addition to the agencies listed below, UDOT contacted the local and state government officials who represent the study area for the reason of informing the officials throughout the study process. The study team notified agencies and officials of the study and scoping process in the following ways.

- On December 7, 2010, UDOT appeared before the Kearns Township Community Council to notify them of the study.
- On January 17, 2011, the study team sent letters to 30 agencies and government officials requesting their involvement in the study. A copy of this letter is included in Appendix A.
- On February 15, 2011, UDOT appeared before the Kearns Township Community Council to answer questions about the proposed widening project.

The following agencies and officials received letters inviting them to be involved in the study. Asterisks (*) indicate the agencies that have responded.

- City of Taylorsville Certified Local Government
- City of Taylorsville Engineering Department*
- City of Taylorsville Mayor's Office
- Comcast
- Governor's Office of Public Lands Policy Coordination*
- Granite School District Transportation
- Kearns Township Community Council*
- Kearns Township Improvement District*
- Questar
- Qwest*
- Rocky Mountain Power
- Salt Lake County Certified Local Government

- Salt Lake County Department of Public Works, Planning & Development*
- Salt Lake County Westside Township Representative*
- State of Utah Resource Development Coordinating Committee
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Unified Fire Authority*
- Unified Police of Greater Salt Lake*
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Utah Division of Air Quality
- Utah Division of Drinking Water
- Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
- Utah Division of History
- Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah House District 38
- Utah House District 39
- Utah State Senate District 5*
- Utah Transit Authority*
- Wasatch Front Regional Council*

4.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

This section summarizes issues raised by the public that UDOT considered during the environmental study. This section also explains how UDOT notified the public of the opportunity to share their input during the scoping process. UDOT used the public scoping process to gather input and determine issues that should be considered in the environmental study.

In order to maximize public input during the scoping process, UDOT communicated information to the public in a variety of ways. Interested stakeholders submitted comments through a telephone comment line, an email address, a website comment page, and in writing at the public scoping open house.

4.2.1 Public Notifications

UDOT employed a variety of methods to educate, inform, and solicit feedback from the public regarding the public scoping process and meeting activities. These notification methods included leaving flyers on doors in the study area; placing legal advertisements in statewide newspapers; mailing 6,600 postcards; sending an e-newsletter; posting online advertisements on Facebook; establishing a Facebook event page; distributing notification on Twitter; posting the event information on the City of Taylorsville, Kearns Township, and UDOT's websites; and sending information home with local school children.

4.2.2 Public Scoping Open House

UDOT hosted a public scoping open house on January 27, 2011, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Oquirrh Hills Elementary School (5241 South 4280 West, Kearns Township). More than 200 people attended and participated in the open house to voice their concerns, comments, and suggestions.

Staff members were available to provide information on the purpose of the proposed widening project, to answer questions, and to discuss current transportation issues with participants. A separate area was set up specifically for participants to ask questions and get information on UDOT property acquisition.

Participants were encouraged to write their transportation concerns and suggestions for improvements on comment forms, and the participants were given the study contact information if they wanted to write a comment later.

4.3 PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING COMMENTS

The study team will continue to gather public comments concerning the proposed widening project throughout the study. Comments received during the public scoping period from January 17, 2011 through February 4, 2011, are included in Appendix C.

4.3.1 Scoping Comments Summary

The comment form provided at the public scoping open house suggested topic areas for comments, as well as solicited participants for other comments UDOT should consider. UDOT received 122 comments during the scoping process. A summary of comments received are presented below. The exact transcription of comments is included in Appendix C.

- Residents want to receive a fair price for their homes.
- Participants were very concerned about elderly, long-term residents, and those with financial situations that would not allow them to establish a new home.
- Participants were concerned about potentially losing the Veteran’s Memorial at the 4015 West and 5400 South intersection and losing the community facilities and services along 5400 South.
- Participants believed improvements to intersections and signal timing would reduce congestion.
- Participants identified a need for improved capacity, such as shoulders along the roadway to keep snow and garbage cans off sidewalks.
- Participants suggested UDOT widen alternative streets such as 4700 South.
- Participants identified a need to improve left turn lanes at 4800 West and Cougar Lane as well as other side streets.
- Participants identified a need to improve drainage along the roadway, particularly at the intersections of 4015 West, 4240 West, and 4270 West.
- Participants perceived a need to improve sidewalks and include crosswalks for pedestrian safety.
- Participants identified a need for pedestrian access across 5400 South, particularly to the schools and library.
- Participants would like bicycle lanes or a trail added along 5400 South.
- Participants suggested lowering speed limits on 5400 South to make the roadway safer for pedestrians.
- Participants want to maintain community vitality, cohesiveness, and community facilities.
- Participants are concerned about keeping businesses in Kearns Township, especially during construction.
- Participants are concerned about what impact the proposed widening project would have on property values and local businesses.

4.4 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

The draft State Environmental Study (SES) will be made available for public review and comment between April 22 and May 22, 2011. Comments received by May 26, 2011, and responses to those comments will be included in the final SES.