



Public Hearing Summary

February 13, 2008



Three Cities River Crossing Project
ACHD Project No. 703044
ITD Project No. STP-003(157)
Key No. 8821



April 1, 2008

Public Hearing Summary Report

The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) hosted a public hearing on Feb. 13, 2008 to gather public comments on the Three Cities River Crossing Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The proposed project would involve constructing a new north-south connection between State Street and Chinden Boulevard (U.S. 20/26). The roadway would be located between Glenwood Street and Eagle Road, and would include a new crossing over the Boise River.

A total of 115 people signed in at the hearing. Participants were encouraged to submit written or verbal comments on the Draft EIS, the recommended preferred roadway alignment and two options for the river crossing at the hearing. ACHD accepted written comments from Jan. 18 to March 3, 2008. The Notice of Availability announcing the availability of the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register (Volume 73, No. 13) on January 18, 2008.

This document summarizes the hearing notification process, format and public comments.

Notification Process

ACHD used the following methods to notify the community that the Draft EIS was available for review, and that a public hearing would be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 13 at the Plantation Shopping Center at 6740 Glenwood Street in Garden City.

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| Jan. 15, 2008 | Notification letter sent to 132 property owners, legislators, local jurisdictions, resource agencies and other stakeholders. The letter announced the public hearing date, time and location, and where to find copies of the Draft EIS. |
| Jan. 15-18, 2008 | Copies of the Draft EIS distributed to city and county offices for public viewing. Locations included ACHD headquarters, the Boise Public Library, Boise City Hall, COMPASS, Eagle City Hall, Eagle Public Library, Garden City Hall, Garden City Public Library, ITD Headquarters and District 3, and the Federal Highway Administration. |
| Jan. 15, 2008 | Hearing notification and Draft EIS posted to www.achd.ada.id.us/projects/ . |

- Jan. 17, 2008 News release sent to local media outlets announcing the hearing date, Draft EIS locations, and the beginning of the comment period.
- Jan. 18, 2008 Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register (Volume 73, No. 13).
- Jan. 21, 2008 Display ad appeared in the Idaho Business Review.
- Jan. 22, 2008 Postcard mailed to 26,413 stakeholders, announcing the hearing date and how to give comments.
- Jan. 24, 2008 Display ad appeared in Idaho Statesman.
- Jan. 28, 2008 Electronic postcard e-mailed to the cities of Boise, Garden City and Eagle and Ada County.
- Jan. 28, 2008 Display ad appeared in the Idaho Business Review.
- Jan. 31, 2008 Display ad appeared in Idaho Statesman.
- Feb. 7, 2008 Legal ad appeared in the Idaho Statesman.
- Feb. 11, 2008 Display ad appeared in the Idaho Business Review.
- Feb. 12, 2008 Display ad appeared in Idaho Statesman and Idaho Business Review.
- Feb. 12, 2008 News release sent to local media outlets announcing the public hearing.

Copies of all communication materials are included in the appendix to this document.

Public Hearing Format

Attendees were greeted at the door and encouraged to sign in. Each attendee received a comment form, a handout with project information and frequently asked questions, and a map illustrating the recommended preferred alternative.

Meeting attendees were invited to review project information at five stations. ACHD and project team representatives were available at each station to answer questions.

Each station also included a question-and-answer document that addressed topics at that station.

- **“Welcome” displays** at the room entrance gave an overview of the hearing format, project timeline and the project area.
- **Station 1** gave a project overview, including the background, purpose and need, project features and public involvement process.
- **Station 2** included maps of each alternative that had been evaluated in the Draft EIS, and reasons why some were not advanced. The station also included a list of reasons that the recommended preferred alternative was selected.
- **Station 3** showed several tables from the traffic analysis.
- **Station 4** showed the recommended preferred alternative (Alternative 6), the east and west river crossings options, and a list of comment sheet questions.
- **Station 5** was in a separate room where a hearing officer could privately record verbal comments.

Public Comments

Comment forms at the hearing included the following questions:

1. What are your comments on the Draft EIS?
2. Do you agree or disagree with Alternative 6 as the recommended preferred alternative? Why?
3. Which crossing option do you prefer, East or West? Why?
4. Other comments

ACHD received 61 written and verbal comments during the 45-day comment period for this project. A summary of the main themes that emerged from each question, as well as a full transcription of comments, is included in this document.

Summary of Public Comments

This document includes a general overview of the main themes and opinions expressed through public comments on the Three Cities River Crossing Draft EIS. ACHD received 61 comments during the 45-day comment period for this project. Of these, 14 were verbal and 47 were written.

The following summary is not intended to be statistically reliable or to replace the official Responses to Public Hearing Comments document prepared by ACHD for this project. Frequent responses are included for each question.

1. What are your comments on the Draft EIS?

ACHD received 19 responses to this question. The most often-repeated comments were:

- The document looks good, is thorough, and adequately addresses concerns.
- The project needs to be constructed sooner.

Other notable comments included:

- The Draft EIS failed to address non-game birds and mammals in the project area.
- Children's safety on Cloverdale Road is a concern.

2. Do you agree or disagree with Alternative 6 as the recommended preferred alternative?

ACHD received 26 responses to this question. Of the participants who responded to this question the majority supported Alternative 6 as the recommended preferred alternative and a few did not.

Of those who said Alternative 6 was the best option, the most often-repeated comments were:

- Alternative 6 reduces traffic or distributes traffic more evenly.
- Alternative 6 has the least impact on residents and neighborhoods.

Of those who disagreed that Alternative 6 was the best option, a few people said they would prefer the Five Mile Road option.

The other notable comment in this category stated that ACHD should plan ahead for access to potential development properties.

3. Which crossing option do you prefer, East or West?

ACHD received 22 responses to this question. Several other people indicated their preference in a different section of the comment sheet. Of those participants who responded to this questions more preferred the East crossing over the West crossing.

Of those who favored the East crossing, the most often-repeated reasons were:

- It is the most direct route and requires less bridge construction.
- It costs less.
- It causes less impact to vegetation or wildlife.

Of those who favored the West crossing, the most often-repeated reasons were:

- It lessens flood concerns.
- It is the more direct route.

Other notable comments included:

- The East crossing should connect with Five Mile Road, not Mountain View Drive.
- The West crossing has a smaller impact on river wildlife.

4. Other comments

ACHD received 30 written responses and 14 verbal testimonies that were general comments. The most often-repeated themes included:

- Do not wait to build the project.
- The Five Mile Road option would be preferable to the Cloverdale option.
- Do not build the project.

Other notable comments included:

- Concerns for neighborhoods south of Chinden Boulevard.
- Support for bicycle lanes.
- Support for a crossing at Maple Grove Road instead of Cloverdale Road.

Appendix

- Mailings
 - 30-day notification letter and mailing list (01-15-08)
 - Mailing list, saturation drop and postcard (26,413 addresses) (01-22-08)
- Media
 - Jan. 17 media release
 - Feb. 12 media release
 - Display ads (01-21-08, 01-24-08, 01-28-08, 01-31-08, 02-11-08, 02-12-08)
 - Legal ad (02-07-08)
 - Affidavits of publication
- DEIS distribution lists
 - Agencies
 - CD's mailed
- Notice of Availability
- Hearing Officer's Certification
- Hearing sign-in sheet
- Hearing sign-in sheet transcribed
- Testimony
 - Verbal testimony transcribed
 - Written Testimony transcribed
 - Written Testimony forms (copies)
- Staff present at hearing
- Handouts from hearing
- Display boards
- Detailed work plan