



I-70 East

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING SUMMARY

Date/Time: February 1, 2016, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: North Middle School, 12095 Montview Boulevard, Aurora, Colorado

Attendees: 11

Abe

Doug Schrader

Linda

Bob Legare

Ella Hart

Ryan

Dennis Mullaney

Herb Kirk

Though sign-in was encouraged, it is not required and attendees may have participated in the meeting without signing in.

1. INTRODUCTION

The I-70 East Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project team conducted public hearings on February 1 and 3, 2016, as part of the ongoing community outreach process. Childcare and translators were available to all attendees. A meeting was scheduled for February 2 in Commerce City, but was cancelled due to weather conditions. The primary purpose of the public hearings was to provide an update of recent EIS study developments, summarize the Final EIS document available for public review, and provide an opportunity for public comment.

The hearings included an open house and a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a formal public comment session. There were three ways to provide comments at the hearings: (1) verbal comments could be made before the assembled audience and recorded by a court reporter, (2) private verbal comments could be made to a court reporter in a separate room, and (3) comment sheets also were provided for attendees in an effort to solicit written comments about the project. In addition, comments could be emailed or mailed via the postal system after the hearings through the end of the review period on March 2, 2016. The project team will consider the comments from the hearings prior to issuing the ROD. These notes reflect the public hearing held on February 1, 2016.

2. PROJECT INFORMATION

The following subsections briefly describe the project.

a. Project Overview

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) propose improvements to I-70 between I-25 and Tower Road. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires projects that are federally funded and may have an impact on the environment to be analyzed through a rigorous process that allows the public to comment on the project.

b. Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to implement a transportation solution that improves safety, access, and mobility and addresses congestion on I-70. The need for the project results from several issues:

- Increased transportation demand



- Limited transportation capacity
- Safety concerns
- Transportation infrastructure deficiencies

c. Final EIS Alternatives Evaluated

The Final EIS evaluates the impacts to the project area of three alternatives: the No-Action Alternative, the Revised Viaduct Alternative, and the Partial Cover Lowered Alternative which is identified as the Preferred Alternative.

In addition to the No-Action Alternative, two Build Alternatives with options are evaluated. The Build Alternatives are:

Revised Viaduct Alternative

- Expansion Options:
North or South
- Operational Options:
General-Purpose Lanes or Managed Lanes

Partial Cover Lowered Alternative

- Operational Options:
General-Purpose Lanes or Managed Lanes

3. FEBRUARY 1: AURORA PUBLIC HEARING

Exhibits at the public hearings explained the project and its impacts briefly and included the following categories:

- Project overview: including the purpose and need of the project, ongoing public outreach, and comments that were received on the Supplemental Draft EIS.
- Final EIS Alternatives: including No-Action, Revised Viaduct, and Partial Cover Lowered Alternative which has been identified as the Preferred Alternative
- Impacts and mitigations on various resources: including impacts and mitigations on environmental justice communities, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, historic resources, and relocations
- Aesthetic guidelines: including the process to develop aesthetic guidelines and planning the amenities on the highway cover
- Financing and Public Private Partnership: including information regarding High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) and project funding

A presentation by Tony DeVito, Project Director, was held to explain the format and purpose of the meeting and describe the project and the Preferred Alternative to the public. After the presentation, the public was invited to speak their comments on the project publicly.

4. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were 11 attendees at the February 1 Aurora public hearing and no comments received either in written or verbal format.