



# Public Meeting #5 Summary

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Pulaski County, Arkansas  
February 4, 2016



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- Attachment A Advertisements
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In April 2014, the Arkansas Highway State Transportation Department (AHTD) began the Interstate 30 (I-30) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study to identify the purpose and need for improvements within the I-30 PEL study area, determine possible viable alternatives for a long-term transportation solution, and recommend alternatives that can be carried forward seamlessly into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The PEL study was completed and approved in June 2015.

The NEPA process includes identifying social, economic, and environmental impacts related to the project, and evaluating methods to avoid, minimize, or mitigate identified potential impacts. This project, known as “30 Crossing”, is considering alternatives that would widen, reconstruct, and rehabilitate portions of Interstates 30 and 40, including the Arkansas River Bridge connecting downtown Little Rock to downtown North Little Rock. In addition to studying environmental impacts, the NEPA process includes opportunities for public involvement and interagency coordination and consultation. As part of this public involvement process, public meetings are held to present and discuss the plans, and to allow the public to provide feedback within the study area. This report describes the 30 Crossing Town Hall meeting, a public meeting part of the public involvement process.

## 2.0 PUBLIC MEETING #5

Public Meeting #5 logistics were as follows:

**Location:** Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene (Gym)  
116 South Pine Street  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2015

**Time:** 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Format:** Open house

**Figure 1** depicts the location of the meeting. The sections that follow further detail Public Meeting #5 and summarize the input received through December 6, 2015, which was the end of the public comment period.

Figure 1. Public Meeting #5 Site Location



## 2.1 Public Meeting Advertising and Outreach

Public Meeting #5 for the I-30 NEPA Study was publicized using numerous methods of advertising and outreach, as summarized in **Table 1**. Directional signs were placed in various locations around the public meeting facility to help participants locate the facility and to generate additional local awareness of the event.

**Table 1. Public Meeting Outreach**

<b>Outreach Efforts</b>		<b>Date(s)</b>
Print Ads	Arkansas Democrat Gazette	10/4/15 & 10/18/15
	North Little Rock Times	10/8/15 & 10/22/15
	El Latino	
Direct Mail	Flyers to ROW & Interchange Owners	9/29/15
	Flyers to stakeholders (chambers, HOAs, etc.)	9/30/15
	Flyers to attendees of previous public or community meetings (no email address provided)	
	Flyers to persons interested in project	
	Letters to elected officials	9/28/15 & 10/12/15
	Letters to minority ministers and area churches	9/30/15
Email	Flyers to Technical Work Group Members	9/30/15
	Flyers to minority ministers and area churches	
	Flyers to Elected Officials	
	Flyers to persons interested in project	
	Flyers to attendees of previous public or community meetings	
	Flyers to stakeholders (chambers, HOAs, etc.)	
	Flyers to Project Partners, Stakeholder Advisory Group and Visioning Workshop attendees	9/30/15 (PP, SAG) 10/2/15 (TWG)
Hand-Delivered Flyers	Attractions (e.g., River Market, Clinton Presidential Center and Park)	10/15/15
	Residences, commercial buildings, billboard locations	
	Neighborhoods: Hanger Hill, Dark Hollow, Pettitway, Mid City, others, etc.	
	Churches	
	Gas stations along the I-30 corridor	
	Schools and Development Centers	
	Libraries and Community Centers	
Public Service Announcements	Two 60-second spots on Power 92.3 FM	10/12/15 – 10/22/15
	Two 60-second spots on La Pantera 1440 AM	
Websites	ConnectingArkansasProgram.com	9/30/15
	ArkansasHighways.com	
	Metroplan.org	
	Jkellyreferrals.com (CH2M consultant)	
Media Releases	Distributed to AHTD media list	10/19/15
Social Media	Arkansas News Twitter	Various
	Metroplan Twitter	
	Metroplan Facebook	
	Various group/personal Twitter and Facebook	
Community Calendars	American Towns	10/8/15 and later
	Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau	
	KATV	
	North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce	
	Little Rock Eventful	
	UALR Public Radio	
	KARN News Radio	
North Little Rock Visitors Bureau		
Additional Outreach	Arkansas State Fair Booth and Flyers	10/10/15 – 10/18/15
	J Kelly Consulting outreach	Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October Spotlight Newsletter</li> </ul>	

	Outreach Efforts	Date(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email blast (1,500 clients/customers)</li> <li>• J Kelly Business to Business Radio Talk Show (10/3, 10/10, 10/17)</li> </ul>	

Copies of the print ads, public meeting flyer, letters, public service announcements and media releases are included in **Attachment A**.

## 2.2 Public Meeting Attendance

A summary of the attendance at Public Meeting #5 is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Public Meeting #5 Attendance**

Attendees	Number
General Public	320
Agencies	30
Elected Officials	4
Media	2
Study Team Members	43
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>399</b>

Participants represented a wide range of interests and included members of the general public, members of community organizations, elected officials and city/county staff. Copies of the sign-in sheets from both meetings are included in **Attachment B**.

## 2.3 Public Meeting Format and Materials

Public Meeting #5 was held as an open house format, which allowed participants to arrive, sign in, view exhibits and handouts, ask questions and provide comments any time between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The meeting layout was designed to showcase five distinct stations. 1-30 NEPA Study Team members, comprised of AHTD staff and consultants, were available at every station to provide additional information and answer questions.

The five stations are described below, in the order that they were intended to be viewed by the public. The materials available at each station are summarized in **Table 3**. Copies of the materials, as well as photos from the meetings, are included in **Attachment C**. **Figure 2** presents the general layout for Public Meeting #5.

**Station 1: Sign-in Table** - At this station, members of the public signed in, learned about the meeting format, and received introductory handout materials. Materials included a public meeting program guide that described the meeting format and station set-up, a 30 Crossing Fact Sheet introducing the project, a Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP) brochure describing the CAP Program, and a comment form. Exhibit boards introducing the purpose and need and goals of the study, as well as a notice of non-discrimination were also posted at this station.

**Station 2: I-30 PEL Study & Project History** - This station presented the I-30 PEL study area, constraints that have been identified to-date and PEL Study timeline. Exhibit boards that were on display include the following: one map of the study area; three separate constraints maps covering the north section of the study area (North Little Rock), the middle section of the study area (Arkansas River and central business districts), and south section of the study area (Little Rock); a legend board explaining the symbols identified on the constraints maps; exhibits explaining the Alternatives Screening process; a summary of the Top Reasonable Alternative; and a board summarizing the I-30 PEL Recommendation, the 10-Lane with Downtown C/D.

**Station 3: 8-Lane GP Alternative** - This station presented a summary of the screening process from the PEL for the 8-Lane General Purpose (GP) Alternative. The station displayed an overview and typical sections of 8-Lane GP, as well as results of the Levels 2B and 3 screenings through a series of exhibits including speed profiles and matrices comparing mobility, safety, cost, and environmental impacts.

**Station 4: 10-Lane with Downtown C/D** - This station presented two large roll plots of the I-30 PEL Recommended alternative of the 10-Lane with Downtown C/D, with one mounted on the wall and another laid out on a table. The roll plots detailed existing and potential proposed right-of-way (ROW), as of the meeting date.

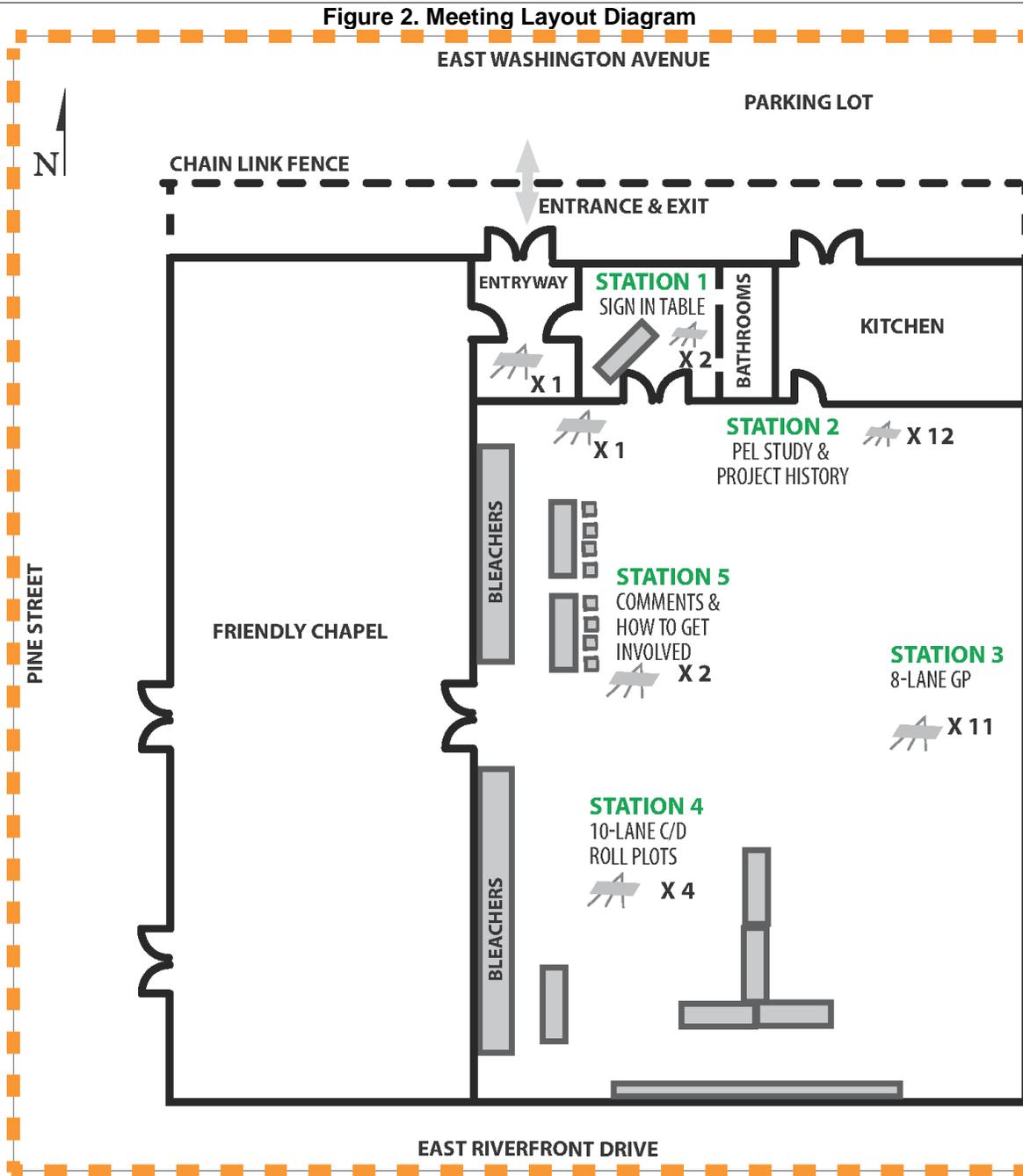
**Cantrell Interchange Alternatives** – Display boards presented four design alternatives proposed for the Cantrell Road interchange. These alternatives include a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI), a Roundabout Diamond Interchange, a Diverging Diamond Interchange, and a Regular Diamond Interchange. Additionally, there were two boards displaying the Cantrell Connection Alternatives: the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street One-Way Pair and Maintaining the Existing LaHarpe Boulevard Access. The station concluded with a display of the NEPA / Schematic Timeline.

**Station 5: Comment Tables and How to Get Involved** - This station included a sitting area and comment boxes for meeting participants to complete and submit comment forms at the meeting venue. Additionally, there was an option for meeting participants to have their comments verbally recorded. This station also presented an exhibit detailing the various methods members of the public could obtain more information or provide comments on the I-30 NEPA Study. At the end of the meeting, the Study Team collected all written comments from the comment boxes.

**Table 3. Public Meeting #5 Materials**

Station	Type	Title
Station 1: Sign In Table	Handout	Public Meeting Program Guide
	Handout	30 Crossing Fact Sheet with Study Area Map
	Handout	CAP Brochure

Station	Type	Title
	Handout	Comment Form
	Exhibit	Notice of Non Discrimination
Station 2: I-30 PEL Study & Project History	Exhibit	Study Area Map
	Exhibits	Constraints Maps (North, Central, South)
	Exhibit	Universe of Alternatives
	Exhibit	Alternative Screening Process
Station 2: I-30 PEL Study & Project History	Exhibits	Levels 2 & 3 Screening Methodologies
	Exhibit	Top Reasonable Alternative
	Exhibit	I-30 PEL Recommendation
Station 3: 8-Lane GP Alternative	Exhibit	8-Lane GP Alternative Screening Request
	Exhibits	Levels 2b & 3 Screening Processes
	Exhibits	8-Lane GP Overview & Typical Sections
	Exhibit	Speed Profiles
	Exhibits	Screening Measures & Results (Mobility, Safety, Cost, Environmental)
Station 4: 10-Lane with Downtown C/D	Exhibit	10-Lane with Downtown C/D Roll Plots
Station 4 (cont.): Cantrell Interchange Alternatives	Exhibits	Cantrell Interchange Alternatives
	Exhibits	Cantrell Connection Alternatives
	Exhibit	NEPA / Schematic Timeline
Station 5: Comment Tables and How to Get Involved	Handout	Comment Form
	Exhibit	How to Get Involved



## 2.4 Public Meeting Comments

The public comment period opened on October 22, 2015 and ended December 6, 2015. Attendees could provide comments through a variety of methods, including the following:

- Submitting a written comment in the public meeting comment box at Station 5;
- Requesting to have their verbal comments recorded by staff at the public meeting at Station 5;

- Calling the Connecting Arkansas Program at 501-225-1519;
- Mailing a written comment to Connecting Arkansas Program, RE: 30 Crossing, 4701 Northshore Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72118; or
- Emailing a comment to [Info@ConnectingArkansasProgram.com](mailto:Info@ConnectingArkansasProgram.com).

**Table 4** shows the number of comment submissions by method in which they were submitted.

**Table 4. Number of Comments Received**

Submission Method <sup>1</sup>	Number of Comments
Comment Form	93
Email	186
Direct Mail	3
<b>Total Comments Received</b>	<b>282</b>

Note: <sup>1</sup> See Attachments D and F for detailed comments.

From the comments received, the most common concern was that the project may negatively impact the character of Downtown Little Rock. Another common issue addressed by public comment was opposition to any widening of I-30, with some comments explicitly mentioning the 10-Lane with Downtown C/D alternative, the 8-Lane GP Alternative or both. Bicycle and pedestrian safety and access was an additional very common concern amongst the comments.

Other fairly common comments related to transit expansion and/or improvements, the LaHarpe/2<sup>nd</sup>/Cantrell design, or social, cultural, physical and natural environmental impacts. A few comments requested additional, specific information, and those individuals will be or have been contacted by project staff.

Additionally, there were many comments asking about specific issues important to the individual or asking for further clarification of items presented at the meeting or on the project website. Overall, there were approximately fifty comments sharing their support of the project.

**Attachment D** provides a listing of all comments received. Also included are the corresponding response codes for each comment. The response code key is presented in **Attachment E**. Comments are listed verbatim unless otherwise notated, and copies of all comments received are included in **Attachment F**.

### 3.0 TOWN HALL MEETING

A Town Hall meeting was held November 16, 2015 in the Clinton Presidential Center, located at 1200 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. As this meeting occurred within the comment period for the Public Meeting, an overview of the meeting and the public comments are included in this report in **Attachment G**.

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#### 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Feedback from Public Meeting #5 supports the need for transportation solutions in the study area in order to improve safety, improve existing roadway deficiencies (i.e., too many ramps, weaving problems, etc.), alleviate congestion, and improve access and connectivity across I-30 through Little Rock and North Little Rock. With the presentation of the current alternatives, many of the comments received included specific questions related to potential access and ROW impacts. Similar to previous public meetings, commenters noted ramping and weaving problems as issues of concern and identified bicycle, pedestrian and transit accommodations as important transportation priorities.

The input gathered at Public Meeting #5 will be used to help further refine and develop the alternatives as part of the current NEPA process.

Copies of this document, as well as future public meeting materials, will be available online at [www.ConnectingArkansasProgram.com](http://www.ConnectingArkansasProgram.com). Questions or additional comments may be directed to [Info@ConnectingArkansasProgram.com](mailto:Info@ConnectingArkansasProgram.com).