



# Public Meeting #6 Summary

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Pulaski County, Arkansas  
September 2016



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction.....	1
2.0	Public Meeting #6.....	1
2.1	Public Meeting Advertising and Outreach .....	3
2.2	Public Meeting Attendance .....	4
2.3	Public Meeting Format and Materials.....	4
2.4	Public Meeting Comments .....	7
3.0	Conclusions and Next Steps .....	9

## FIGURES

Figure 1.	Public Meeting #6 Site Location .....	2
Figure 2.	Meeting Layout Diagram .....	7

## TABLES

Table 1.	Public Meeting Outreach .....	3
Table 2.	Public Meeting #6 Attendance.....	4
Table 3.	Public Meeting #6 Materials .....	6
Table 4.	Number of Comments Received .....	8
Table 5.	Preferred Alternatives From Options on Comment Form .....	9

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A	Advertisements & Outreach
Attachment B	Sign-In Sheets
Attachment C	Meeting Materials and Photographs
Attachment D	Public Comments with Responses
Attachment E	Standard Responses to Public Comments
Attachment F	Public Comments
Attachment G	Public Comment Evaluation Methodology

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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 Public Meeting #6.

## 2.0 PUBLIC MEETING #6

Public Meeting #6 logistics were as follows:

**Location:** Wyndham Riverfront (Silver City Rooms)  
2 Riverfront Place  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
**Date:** April 26, 2016  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
**Format:** Presentation followed by an Open house

**Figure 1** depicts the location of the meeting. The sections that follow further describe Public Meeting #6 and summarize the input received through comments.

Figure 1. Public Meeting #6 Site Location



## 2.1 Public Meeting Advertising and Outreach

Public Meeting #6 for the 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

OUTREACH EFFORTS	DATE(S)
<b>Direct Mail (3,521)</b>	
- Elected officials (76)	04/08/16
- First row + interchange owners (347)	04/11/16
- 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Street property owners (192)	04/11/16
- 4 <sup>th</sup> through 9 <sup>th</sup> Street property owners (113)	04/11/16
- Stakeholders (chambers, HOAs, etc.) (120)	04/11/16
- Minority ministers and area churches (61)	04/11/16
- Interested in project (no email address provided) (7)	04/11/16
- Attended previous public or community meetings (no email address provided) (167)	04/11/16
- Email failed – Sent Letter (21)	4/15/16
- Every Door Direct Mail – 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> , east of I-30 (2,417)	4/15/16
<b>Email Flyers (1,038)</b>	
- Technical Work Group Members (76)	04/13/16
- Elected officials (70)	04/13/16
- Interested in project (141)	04/13/16
- Attended previous public or community meetings (645)	04/13/16
- Stakeholders (chambers, HOAs, etc.) (15)	04/13/16
- Minority ministers and area churches (25)	04/13/16
- Project Partners, SAG, Visioning Workshop Members (66)	04/13/16
<b>Radio – 30 second spots</b>	
- Power 92.3 FM – two 60-second PSA	04/18 – 04/26
- La Pantera 1440 AM (Hispanic) – two 60-second PSAs	04/18 – 04/26
<b>Print Ads</b>	
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette	04/10/16 04/24/16
- North Little Rock Times	04/14/16 04/21/16
- El Latino (Hispanic)	04/14/16 04/21/16
<b>Websites</b>	
- www.connectingarkansasprogram.com	04/11/16
- www.arkansashighways.com	04/11/16
- www.Metroplan.org	04/14/16
<b>Media Release</b>	
- Distributed to AHTD media list	04/13/16
<b>Hand Delivered Flyers – (135 flyers – English and Spanish)</b>	
- Churches	04/19/16

- Area Attractions (Museums, River Market, etc)	<b>04/19/16</b>
- Gas stations along the I-30 corridor	<b>04/19/16</b>
- Schools & Development Centers	<b>04/19/16</b>
- Libraries and Community Centers	<b>04/19/16</b>
- Residences, Commercial Buildings, Billboard locations, Misc	<b>04/19/16</b>
- Neighborhoods: Hanger Hill, Dark Hollow, Pettiway, Mid City, others	<b>04/19/16</b>
- 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Streets	<b>04/19/16</b>
<b>Community Calendars</b>	
- American Towns	
- City of Little Rock	
- Fox 16	
- KUAR	
- LR Regional Chamber of Commerce	
<b>Social Media</b>	
Metroplan Twitter	<b>Ongoing</b>
Metroplan Facebook	<b>Ongoing</b>
Various group/personal Twitter and Facebook	<b>Ongoing</b>

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 #6 is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Public Meeting #6 Attendance**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Number</b>
General Public	315
Agencies	23
Elected Officials	15
Media	4
Study Team Members	58
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>415</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 the meeting are included in **Attachment B**.

## 2.3 Public Meeting Format and Materials

Public Meeting #6 was held as a presentation followed by an open house format, in which several stations were prepared for informal viewing, and project team members were available for one-on-one questions and conversation about the project. Participants signed in, received handouts, and proceeded to one of the ballrooms for presentation. The presentation began at approximately 5:15 p.m., and provided a brief

overview of the project, along with updates since the last public meeting. The speakers were AHTD Director Scott Bennett and Connecting Arkansas Program Manager Jerry Holder. In addition, Chris East with StudioMAIN and Paul Moore with Nelson\Nygaard were guest speakers during the presentation. The presentation was filmed and was placed on the 30 Crossing website. Following the presentation attendees were directed to the ballrooms across the hall for the open house format. This area was made available until 8:00 p.m. allowing participants to view exhibits, collect handouts, ask questions, and provide comments.

There was six stations in the open house area. (Copies of these materials and photos from the meeting are included in **Attachment C.**)

**Station 1: Environmental** – The Environmental Station consisted of a Study Area Map, Constraints Maps, Environmental Update, and History of I-30. There were three 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 the south section of the study area (Little Rock). The Environmental update board provided the current status of all environmental studies being conducted to complete the NEPA process. The History of I-30 was displayed on a board showing facts and forecasts ranging from 1913-2040.

**Station 2: Mobility & Safety (Traffic Simulations)** – There were three monitors present to display three different simulation videos: 8-Lane Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) and 6-Lane Collector/Distributor (C/D) with SPUI, 8-Lane Split Diamond and 6-Lane C/D Split Diamond, and the Future No Action. There were also boards displaying the 2041 peak a.m. and p.m. traffic performance for the SPUI and Split Diamond with I-30 and downtown improvements, existing regional arterial network assessment, 2040 daily inbound trips to downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock, I-30/I-40 existing safety conditions, solutions for improved mobility and safety, and what makes I-30 unique.

**Station 3: Roll Plots** – This station presented four large roll plots laid across tables of the 8-Lane with SPUI, 8-Lane with Split Diamond, 6-Lane C/D with SPUI, and 6-Lane C/D with Split Diamond. The roll plots detailed proposed roadway locations, proposed ramp locations, and proposed right-of-way (ROW), as of the meeting date. This station also contained boards showing the typical sections for each of the presented alternatives, 8-Lane general purpose bottleneck, and description of a C/D lane.

**Station 4: 3D Simulations** – This station presented two monitors displaying the 8-Lane and 6-Lane C/D with SPUI, and 8-Lane and 6-Lane C/D with Split Diamond side by side. There were nine display boards showing rendering of existing and future conditions of alternatives for the east/west connectivity, I-30 at Broadway Street, Broadway Street, President Clinton Avenue, Cantrell Interchange at 2nd and 3rd streets Split Diamond option, Cantrell Interchange at 2nd and 3rd streets SPUI option, Cumberland Street, Cantrell Interchange at 3rd and 4th streets Split Diamond, and 6th street.

**Station 5: StudioMAIN & Nelson\Nygaard** – At this station, staff from StudioMAIN and

Nelson\Nygaard was available to answer questions from the public. They primarily addressed options by which the City of Little Rock could make use of the green space available with the new Cantrell Interchanges.

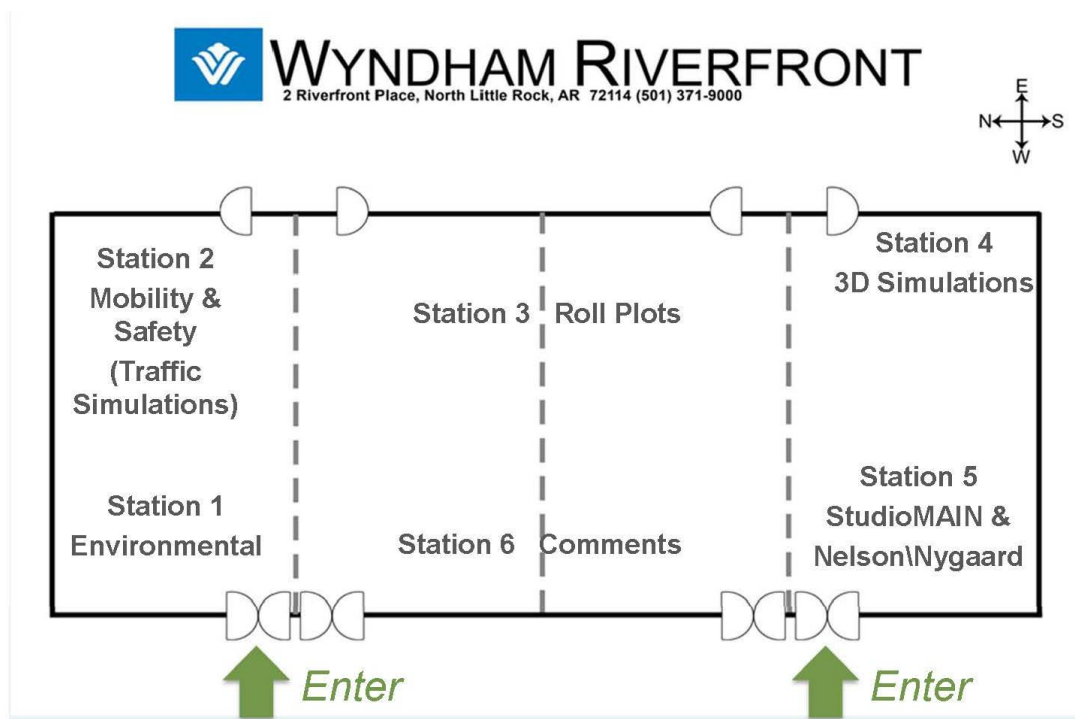
**Station 6: Comments** – This station included a sitting area and comment boxes for meeting participants to complete and submit comment forms at the meeting venue. Additionally, there was an option for meeting participants to have their comments verbally recorded. This station also presented an exhibit 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 #6 Materials**

Station	Type	Title
Sign In Table	Handout	Public Meeting Program Guide
	Handout	30 Crossing Fact Sheet with Study Area Map
	Handout	FAQ Brochure
	Handout	Comment Form
	Exhibit	Notice of Non Discrimination
Station 1: Environmental	Exhibit	Study Area Map
	Exhibits	Constraints Maps
	Exhibit	Environmental Update
	Exhibit	History of I-30
Station 2: Mobility & Safety (Traffic Simulations)	Exhibits	VISSIM Model Animations
	Exhibits	Traffic Performance
	Exhibit	Existing Regional Arterial Network Assessment
	Exhibits	2040 Daily Inbound Trips
	Exhibit	I-30/I-40 Safety: Existing Conditions
	Exhibit	Solutions for Mobility and Safety
	Exhibit	What Makes I-30 Unique?
Station 3: Roll Plots	Exhibits	Roll Plots
Station 4: 3D Simulations	Exhibits	3D Simulations
	Exhibits	Existing and Future Renderings
Station 5: StudioMAIN & Nelson\Nygaard	Handout	StudioMAIN Handout
Station 6: Comment Tables and How to Get Involved	Handout	Comment Form
	Exhibit	Your Input Matters!
	Exhibit	Funding Sources
	Exhibit	Public Involvement Infographic
	Exhibit	How to Get Involved



Figure 2. Meeting Layout Diagram



#### 2.4 Public Meeting Comments

The public comment period opened at the Public Meeting on April 26, 2016 and ended June 10, 2016. Attendees could provide comments through a variety of methods, including the following:

- Submitting a written comment in the public meeting comment box at Station 6;
- Requesting to have their verbal comments recorded by staff at the public meeting at Station 6;
- Filling out a web form that provided the same fields as the comment form available at the meeting;
- 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@30crossing.com](mailto:Info@30crossing.com)

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

**Table 4. Number of Comments Received**

<b>Submission Method <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>
Comment Form	37
Meeting-Specific Web Form	1294
General Project Web Form	12
Email	53
Direct Mail	10
<b>Total Comments Received</b>	<b>1406</b>

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

A portion of the comment form asked attendees to indicate which alternative(s) presented has the most positive impacts while minimizing negative impacts. Since an individual could select one, more than one, or none of the choices available, the final counts of preferred alternative do not necessarily equal the amount of comments submitted. Additionally, measures were taken by staff to only tally a person's preference once, though over eighty members of the public submitted multiple comments. More information can be found in the *Public Comment Record and Analysis Methodology (Attachment G)*.

**Table 5** Tallies how many times each alternative was selected from the collection of comment forms. Over 500 comment forms selected a preference for the 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor Lanes and 29 for the 8-Lane General Purpose Lanes alternatives.

The No Build alternative was selected 464 times, although a portion of those comment forms also included a specified preference to evaluate turning I-30 into an at-grade boulevard-type facility or suggested that other alternatives be developed and evaluated. Considering the No Build alternative for AHTD projects involves no new construction, these preferences were considered as a preference for "Other." As such, 229 selections of "Other Alternative" were recorded. Those who provided additional comment primarily suggested the boulevard concept, bridge repair or replacement only, and the StudioMAIN-presented concept that includes deck parks as part of the 30 Crossing design.

**Table 5. Preferred Alternatives From Options on Comment Form**

Preferred Alternative	Number of Respondents	
Total 6 with C/D	535	
Total 8 GP	31	
Total No-Build	464	
	No Build (More Options)	2
Total Other	229	
	Other Boulevard	125
	Other Bridge	41
	Other StudioMain	4
Split Diamond	506	
SPUI	63	

Additionally, of the comments received specifying a preferred interchange, over 500 selected the Split Diamond design and 63 selected the Single-Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

Of the comments that were submitted via methods other than the comment form with options, the input was consistent. The preferred alternative was the 6-Lane with Collector/Distributor Lanes with Split Diamond Interchange, while a significant portion of comments stated a desire for a No-Build condition.

Other recurring topics that were reviewed throughout the Public Comment process included parking concerns, interchange improvements, adding a river crossing (bridge), bridge repair/replacement/design, rerouting I-30 to present I-440, connecting I-630 with US-67, as well as general support and opposition of the project.

An overall methodology for the collection, review and evaluation of public comments is included as **Attachment G**.

**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 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Feedback from Public Meeting #6 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 #6 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@30crossing.com](mailto:Info@30crossing.com).