
I-49 INNER CITY CONNECTOR STAGE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND INTERCHANGE JUSTIFICATION REPORT

Caddo Parish
State Project No. H.003915
Legacy Project No. 700-09-0171

AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN



Revised Thursday, May 17, 2012



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| ACRONYMS REFERENCE LIST | 4 |
| 1.0 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan Purpose..... | 5 |
| 1.1 Project Background | 5 |
| 1.2 Potential Environmental Justice Issues | 6 |
| 2.0 Initial Coordination | 7 |
| 2.1 Agency Scoping Process | 7 |
| 2.2 Agency Stakeholders | 7 |
| Participating and Cooperating Agencies | 7 |
| Non-Participating Agencies and Local Organizations | 8 |
| 2.3 Notice of Intent | 9 |
| 2.4 Coordination Plan Distribution..... | 9 |
| 3.0 Agency Coordination | 11 |
| 3.1 Established Comment Periods and Review Times | 11 |
| 4.0 Public Involvement Opportunities | 13 |
| 4.1 Public Meetings..... | 13 |
| Public Meeting Round I: Project Initiation..... | 14 |
| Public Meeting Round II: Alternative Development | 15 |
| Public Hearing..... | 15 |
| 5.0 Communications/Outreach Strategies | 17 |
| 5.1 Citizen’s Advisory Committee | 17 |
| 5.2 Media and Public Relations..... | 18 |
| Proactive Media Interactions..... | 18 |
| E-blasts..... | 18 |
| 5.3 Community Outreach Tools | 18 |
| Branding..... | 19 |
| Project Newsletters | 19 |
| Project Website | 19 |
| Other Outreach Tools | 20 |
| 5.4 Special Populations | 20 |
| Elderly and Disabled Populations | 20 |
| Businesses and Homeowners Associations | 21 |

APPENDIX A – Solicitation of Views Request Letter and Listing of Agencies and Organizations Receiving Second round of Solicitation of View Requests..... 22

APPENDIX B – Project Scoping Meeting Invitation List..... 23

APPENDIX C – FHWA Notice of Intent..... 25

ACRONYMS REFERENCE LIST

CAC – Citizen’s Advisory Committee

CSS – Context Sensitive Solutions

DEIS – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DOT – United States Department of Transportation

DOTD – Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

EA – Environmental Assessment

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

EJ – Environmental Justice

FEIS – Final Environmental Impact Statement

FTA – Federal Transit Administration

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration

HUD – United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

NAACP – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

NLCOG – Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments

NOA – Notice of Availability

NOI – Notice of Intent

PSAs – Public Service Announcements

ROD – Record of Decision

SAFETEA-LU – SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SOV – SOLICITATION OF VIEWS

USACE – UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

1.0 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan is to define the process by which information will be communicated to the public and to the lead, cooperating, participating, and other agencies in conjunction with the I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 project. The plan also identifies how input from agencies, stakeholders and the public will be solicited and considered. This plan will:

- Identify early communication efforts essential to effective communications throughout the project;
- Identify the agencies that will be involved in coordination efforts;
- Establish timeframes and protocols for agency and stakeholder involvement in the project;
- Establish timeframes, protocols and processes for public opportunities for interaction, including identification of key issues, development of the purpose and need, assistance in defining the range of alternatives to be considered, and providing input on issues of concern;
- Provide details regarding specific communications strategies to be utilized in accomplishing the goals outlined above;
- Meet and integrate requirements of Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU);
- Meet and integrate requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and
- Meet and integrate requirements of the 1994 Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations; United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Order 5610.2 and 5610.2(a); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order 6640.23; DOT's Final Environmental Justice Strategy (March 2, 2012); the 1999 FHWA/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) memorandum regarding implementation of Title VI requirements in planning; and the most recent 2011 FHWA memorandum regarding guidance on environmental justice (EJ) and NEPA.

This plan will clearly outline how the project team will solicit input, develop two-way communications with all parties, and document public opinions with regard to the I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 project. The robust public involvement recommended within this plan is aimed at developing constructive communication channels, thereby avoiding unnecessary confusion between agency stakeholders, the general public, and the project team.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) has historically recognized a need to develop a connection between the existing Interstate 49 (I-49) North interchange with Interstate 20 (I-20) and the soon-to-be-constructed I-49 North interchange with Interstate 220 (I-220) within the city of Shreveport in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This approximately 3.8-mile section was a portion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) developed in 1976 for the I-49 Corridor. The inner city section was removed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) as it was "designated a Priority Primary Route, but because of lack of funding it was not developed further."

Since the I-49 North route received environmental clearance from Shreveport to Arkansas and is under construction, awaiting construction funding, or under right-of-way acquisition along the entire route. NLCOG took steps to facilitate the inner city connection of I-49 through Shreveport and in 2009, a Stage 0 Feasibility Study and Environmental Inventory for the I-49 Inner City Connector project began. NLCOG authorized the project team of Providence Engineering and Environmental Group LLC (Providence), ABMB Engineers, Inc. (ABMB), Franklin Industries (now Franklin Associates), Earth Search Inc., and NTB and Associates to undertake the Stage 0 study. NLCOG requested extensive public involvement and outreach during the Stage 0 based on the potential impacts that could occur to minority and low-income populations if the connector would be routed through residential areas near downtown Shreveport. The Stage 0 study was completed in May 2010 and included more than 30 individual and small group stakeholder interviews, a communitywide survey as well as 10 separate public meetings held during three rounds of input. Based on the Stakeholder Interview Summary, the majority of those interviewed were elected officials, public agency representatives, and individuals from nonprofit groups such as churches, chambers of commerce, and economic development or housing agencies. Only a small number were neighborhood residents. The general public was invited to the 10 public meetings where they had opportunities to learn about the proposed project and provide their feedback.

On December 1, 2011, Carl M. Highsmith of the FHWA sent a letter to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Secretary Sherri H. LeBas informing Secretary LeBas that “We have determined the required Class of Action and level of documentation necessary to comply with the NEPA process. Based on the I-49 Inner City Connector’s potentially significant environmental effects, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.” All involved parties are now taking steps to administer this project as an Environmental Impact Statement through the NEPA process.

1.2 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES

In accordance with the 1994 Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address EJ in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations; DOT Order 5610.2 and 5610.2(a); FHWA Order 6640.23; DOT’s Final Environmental Justice Strategy (March 2, 2012); the 1999 FHWA/FTA memorandum regarding implementation of Title VI requirements in planning; and the most recent 2011 FHWA memorandum regarding guidance on EJ and NEPA; this project will make EJ part of its mission by proactively identifying and addressing all programs, policies and activities that affect human health or the environment so as to identify and avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority populations and low-income populations.

The project team recognizes that minority and low-income populations reside within the project study area. As a result, additional engagement techniques will be employed to ensure that these populations are involved in the decision-making process related to alternative selection, impact analysis, and mitigation. These opportunities for public involvement and outreach strategies are further discussed in Sections 4.0 and 5.0 of this plan. Additionally, Providence has created an Environmental Justice Work Plan and Checklist that has been incorporated into the existing Project Work Plan.

2.0 INITIAL COORDINATION

2.1 AGENCY SCOPING PROCESS

The agency scoping process for this project began in March 2009 with the dissemination of 118 Solicitation of Views (SOV) requests sent to agencies, organizations and officials during the Stage 0 process. Of those requests, the project team received 12 responses. Due to the extent of outreach conducted during the Stage 0, a limited number of second round SOV were mailed in September 2011 to the recipients listed in Appendix A. In addition to the SOV mailing, a combined agency and elected officials Scoping Meeting was held on October 18, 2011 at the offices of NLCOG with the project team, NLCOG, and representatives of the 28-member list of requested attendees presented in Appendix B.

Any additional agencies, organizations or officials desiring to provide input directly on this project are encouraged to do so by contacting Kent Rogers, NLCOG Executive Director, at kent.rogers@nlcog.org.

2.2 AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS

The lead agency is the federal agency conducting the NEPA analysis, in this case, the FHWA. The joint lead agencies are state and local project sponsors assisting in conducting the NEPA process. Accordingly, joint lead agencies for this project are:

- DOTD
- NLCOG

Lead agencies will take necessary actions to facilitate the review of analyses performed by the project team to ensure project documents are completed in accordance with SAFETEA-LU¹ and other applicable federal laws. This includes identification of participating and cooperating agencies to participate in the Section 6002 coordination process, development of a coordination plan, and provide opportunities for public and participating agency involvement.

PARTICIPATING AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

SAFETEA-LU created a new category of agencies to participate in the environmental review process for EISs called participating agencies. These agencies are defined as federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies that may have an interest in the project. Participating agencies are expected to participate in the project with regard to the development of the Purpose and Need statement, the range of alternatives, impact analysis, and providing insight where appropriate with regard to methodologies and level of detail for the analysis of alternatives. These agencies are also expected to identify as early as possible any issues of concern regarding the project's potential impacts and participate in the scoping process.

¹ SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users, 2005) incorporates changes aimed at improving and streamlining the environmental process for transportation projects. These changes include a new environmental review process for highways, transit, and multimodal projects, with increased authority for transportation agencies, but also increased responsibilities (e.g., a new category of "participating agencies" and notice and comment related to defining project purpose and need and determining the alternatives).

Invitation letters are sent out to these agencies early on with the objective being to surface and resolve issues as early and quickly as possible. Typically invitation letters are sent out to Participating and Cooperating Agencies prior to the initial scoping meeting. However, as stated in Section 1.1, the EIS was not required by FHWA until December 2011 and the scoping meeting was held in October 2011. Therefore, formal participating and cooperating invitation letters were mailed out during February and March 2012.

Participating agencies for this project are designated as the following:

- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Office of Conservation
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
- Shreveport/Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission

Cooperating agencies are a subgroup of participating agencies defined as any federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative (40 CFR 1508.5) For this project, the sole cooperating agency is the USACE.

NON-PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations/entities were identified during the Stage 0 process as potentially interested in following the progress of this project beyond Stage 0. Stakeholders will be organized into one of four stakeholder focus groups: elected officials, public agency representatives, community development, or business and economic development. Two rounds of meetings will be held with each of these four stakeholder groups, one in advance of each public meeting. Stakeholders will be included in project communications for the Stage 1 process, receiving email communications from the project team on a frequent basis as updates are released. As part of these communications, they will be invited to attend and participate in public meetings; to provide the consultant team with feedback via letters, email, and the project website comment form. As the project team continues to broaden the community involvement database, additional entities may be added to this non-participating agency/organization database. Non-Participating Agencies and Organizations include:

- Consortium for Education, Research and Technology
- Downtown Development Authority
- I-49 International Coalition
- Lakeside Area Neighborhood Association
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- North Shreveport Business Association
- Queensborough Homeowner Association
- Shreveport African American Chamber of Commerce

- Shreveport-Bossier Community Foundation
- Shreveport Green
- Shreveport Housing Authority
- Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal
- SporTran
- Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation Department (SPAR)
- Elected Officials:
- Shreveport Mayor Cedric B. Glover
- Shreveport City Council:
 - Arthur Thompson, Clerk of Council
 - Rose Wilson-McCulloch – Council District A (encompasses study area)
 - Jeff Everson – Council District B
 - Oliver Jenkins – Council District C
 - Michael Corbin – Council District D
 - Ron Webb – Council District E
 - Joe Shyne – Council District F
 - Sam Jenkins – Council District G
- Caddo Parish Commission:
 - Todd Hopkins – Commission Clerk
 - Lyndon B. Johnson – Commissioner, District 2
 - Michael Williams – Commissioner, District 3
- Caddo Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission Members

This list cannot be considered comprehensive as additional stakeholders will likely be identified during the public involvement process. At any point along the way, a stakeholder can be invited to participate in the effort within one of the stakeholder focus groups.

2.3 NOTICE OF INTENT

As required by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 CFR 1501.7, FHWA with assistance from NLCOG prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS. The NOI was published in the Federal Register and signals the initiation of the process. A copy of this NOI is included as Appendix C.

2.4 COORDINATION PLAN DISTRIBUTION

The next step in the agency scoping process required by SAFETEA-LU will be to provide a copy of this Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan to the lead agencies listed below for direct input:

- DOTD
- NLCOG
- FHWA

Upon receiving feedback from the lead agencies, this plan will be forwarded to the cooperating and participating agencies listed above for input regarding potential revisions. In accordance with DOTD's Stage 1 Manual of Standard Practice, once final, this coordination plan will be made available to the public via the project website. This is a revision of the original plan prepared to include more detail on the

EJ process and the creation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), per participating agency comments received after the original comment period. The May 2012 version has been provided for informational purposes only and was not sent out for comment.

3.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

The audiences outlined in Section 2.0 will need to be provided with project information accessibility on an ongoing basis. All communications with these audiences should be based upon the same consistent messaging throughout the project. As the project team begins its efforts, miscommunications can easily occur internally, with the multitude of agencies and consultants involved, as well as externally, with a public unfamiliar with standard transportation project processes. As the project begins, laying appropriate communications foundations with these audiences will provide consistency, comprehension and assist in setting appropriate project expectations.

Specific milestones requiring organized project communications amongst the consultant teams, lead, cooperating, and participating agencies include:

- NOI publication and scoping activities
- Refinement of purpose and need
- Identification of the range of alternatives
 - Alternatives to the project, including a “no-build” alternative, will be developed and analyzed. Each alternative will be looked at to see how the design may impact wetlands; threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; business and residential relocations; community; environmental justice; noise; air; and contamination concerns will all be considered when developing the alternatives.
- Collaboration on methodologies
- DEIS Review (The class of action was upgraded from an Environmental Assessment (EA) to an EIS on 12/1/11)
 - Upon development of the DEIS, all lead, cooperating and participating agencies will assist in reviewing and refining the DEIS prior to finalization
- Identification of the preferred alternative and mitigations
 - The FEIS will provide a preferred alternative to be used in design and construction (if construction is included in the final alternative). The EIS will also include mitigations required to assure minimal impacts to social, environmental and economic concerns, with a focus on development of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).
- Completion of the FEIS
- Completion of the Record of Decision (ROD)

As each of these project milestones are reached, all cooperating and participating agencies will have a role in reviewing and refining the documents produced. Coordination of said reviews and refinement will be led by Providence, the prime consultant. Providence will work closely with Kent Rogers with the NLCOG, who will oversee the reviews to be conducted by FHWA and DOTD.

3.1 ESTABLISHED COMMENT PERIODS AND REVIEW TIMES

In accordance with SAFETEA-LU and DOTD’s Stage 1 Manual of Standard Practice, this coordination plan is to include pre-established comment periods and review times. The comment period for the DEIS will be at least 45 days but no more than 60 days after publication of the notice of availability (NOA) of the DEIS in the Federal Register. Deadlines of no longer than 30 days are set for all other comment periods,

including on the FEIS. The 30-day period runs from the “date of availability” of the materials on which comment is requested.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As required by SAFETEA-LU, Sections 4.0 and 5.0 have been developed to describe strategies for encouraging public input. The extensive outreach employed during the Stage 0 has now set the stage for a similarly robust level of public participation in the Stage 1 study. As these analyses are conducted, soliciting valuable input regarding issues, concerns, suggestions, perceptions and needs from the public is critical. Incorporating early and continued meaningful community involvement into the study process will be effective in not only developing the most appropriate solutions for the end users, but also in laying the foundation for future public and private partnerships that must be in place to support the planning and building of future transportation investments.

Key focal points of the public involvement process will be:

- Educating the public about transportation processes and opportunities for engagement while fostering overall awareness about the project;
- Motivating the public, including existing prior stakeholders and potential additional stakeholders, to participate in the process and provide meaningful direction;
- Solicitation of public input regarding local need, range of alternatives, and potential impacts and mitigation via community dialogues recognizing diverse populations and needs; and,
- Building consensus among participants around issues that are critical to decision making regarding potential project implementation.

4.1 PUBLIC MEETINGS

While information will be gathered through the project website and an online survey, for individuals to maintain the high levels of engagement which residents are now accustomed to in the inner city area of Shreveport, additional direct interactions must be offered. Public meetings throughout the process will offer these interactions, providing interested persons with direct access to the project team and providing a forum for their insights to be collected, heard, and most importantly, taken into consideration as alternatives are refined.

To further enhance this culture of participation, the public involvement opportunities need to be shared as early as possible so that all interested parties are able to take advantage of the opportunities and are able to share the information with others. Confirming the full schedule of all community meetings at project inception is thus critical so that informational materials and processes can be developed and implemented successfully.

Implementation of the meeting schedule will focus on again utilizing sites that are within or adjacent to the study area while supporting an open house format. Meetings will be held in a presentation format offering interactive engagement opportunities while offering access to project team members. The final public hearing will be held in an open-house format providing an opportunity for participants to speak directly with project team members to have their questions answered. Each meeting also will offer visual aids (display boards, graphics) that will assist in communicating project information, including the project timeline, project area, existing roads, and proposed alternatives at the appropriate meeting.

At the public hearing, a project PowerPoint presentation will be developed with built-in audio and will run on a loop to provide all participants with the same information regardless of entry time. Comment forms and audio comment recording will be available at each meeting to obtain any comments, questions, suggestions or concerns that are offered. A summary report will be provided within 10 days after each meeting detailing all comments received, participants in attendance, and specific outreach and communications methods employed. All of the meeting presentations and summaries will be posted on the project website for review by the cooperating and participating agencies, as well as the general public.

Two rounds of public meetings and a public hearing are recommended for this Stage 1 process to assure that geographically diverse areas have opportunities to provide further input as required by NEPA. Meeting sites and dates will be developed to provide optimum public involvement in each phase of the analyses. Recommended venue options for these meetings for consideration include:

- J.S. Clark Middle School, 351 Hearne Street, Shreveport
- Booker T. Washington New Technology High School, 2104 Milam Street, Shreveport
- Louisiana Technical College, 2010 North Market Street, Shreveport
- Shreve Memorial Library, 424 Texas Street, Shreveport

The venues recommended for these meetings were selected with consideration given to facility availability, size, parking, recognition level among participants, and general accessibility. Below is a list of the public meetings anticipated for this project.

PUBLIC MEETING ROUND I: PROJECT INITIATION

Round I will consist of three (3) public meetings held in a presentation format. To increase public participation the meetings will be held on different days of the week at different times. The Tuesday and Thursday meetings will be evening meetings, with Wednesday meeting offered at lunchtime.

- Information outflow: Project introduction, timeline, review of EA/EIS process flowchart, expectations.
- Information inflow: Meeting participants will be given opportunity to provide insight into major areas of concerns through onsite input exercises during public meetings, and provided direct interaction methods to receive project information by providing contact information for the communication method they prefer.
- Timing: This meeting will be held at the outset of the project to advise the public that the project has moved beyond the Stage 0 and to obtain new concepts for CSS and other ideas about alternatives.
- Date: December 2011

PUBLIC MEETING ROUND II: ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Round II will also consist of three (3) public meetings held in a presentation format. Like Round I, the meetings will be held on different days of the week at different times. The Tuesday and Thursday meetings will be evening meetings, with Wednesday meeting offered at lunchtime.

- Information outflow: Alternatives introduction, timeline, expectations
- Information inflow: Meeting participants will be given the opportunity to participate in mapping exercises to obtain insight on desired alternatives and context sensitive solutions, as well as completion of a survey gathering complementary data onsite. Participants will be given the opportunity to offer feedback on suggested alternatives to assist in development of the locally preferred alternative.
- Timing: Timing of the second round on this project will closely align with scheduled environmental information gathering and analysis. This provides sufficient time for project team to develop information for public review, including traffic study and projected alternatives.
- Anticipated date: Summer 2012

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the EIS requirements, a Public Hearing will be held during the DEIS comment period. This meeting differs from the first two rounds because it does not have a live presentation and a formal question and answer session, only a formal comment session. This meeting will be transcribed.

- Information outflow: Alternatives review, timeline, expectations
- Information inflow: Participants will be given the opportunity to provide comments on refined alternatives developed.
- Timing: During the review period for the DEIS. Typically not earlier than 15 days after the NOA
- Anticipated date: First Quarter 2013

Figure 4.1.1 identifies the key timelines of the proposed public involvement opportunities to be held in conjunction with the formulation of the I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 project. For more detail on timelines of public involvement team activities, please refer to “Outreach Tasks Optimal Timeframes” Figure 5.4.1.

Figure 4.1.1: Proposed Overall Schedule for Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| October 18, 2011 | Initial Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan Submitted to NLCOG |
| October 18-November 1, 2011 | Agency and Local Officials Scoping Meeting |
| December 2011 | Public Meetings Round I: Project Initiation |
| Summer 2012 | Public Meetings Round II: Alternatives Development |
| Early 2013 | Public Hearing |

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH STRATEGIES

In addition to overall outreach efforts to generate public participation and awareness, specific project-wide communications strategies are recommended for use throughout the project duration. Below are various strategies that will be utilized by the project team to encourage public involvement.

5.1 CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As discussed in Section 1.2, the presence of EJ populations in the study area increases the level of outreach effort to ensure public participation from the minority and low-income populations. In order to further reach the community and provide a more neighborhood-specific outreach plan, we will develop a CAC. A CAC is one technique that will assist in meeting the SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 requirements for an "opportunity for involvement" by the public in developing the purpose and need and in determining the range of alternatives for a project. This group will be beneficial in the following ways:

- Establishing a local need for the project
- Assist in establishing a community history
- Identifying and resolving local concerns
- Building community awareness of the project and upcoming meetings
- Assisting in identifying project impacts and potential mitigation options

The members of this committee will be sought from the potentially impacted community, and will include residents, churches, neighborhood groups, business owners, community leaders, and non-profits operating in the community. The project team will invite individuals associated with the following groups as well as residents identified either through discussions with the below groups or other outreach efforts (including commenters on the website and public meeting attendees from Stage 0) to participate on the CAC:

- Residents from within 1,000-foot study corridor established from Stage 0
- Pastoral Council, a group of Baptist Pastors from the Allendale neighborhood and adjacent communities (Contact – Pastor C.E. McLain)
- Christian Services (Contact – Ted Penn)
- Fuller House (Contact – Lee Jeter)
- HUD Choice Neighborhood Grant team
- Pierre Avenue Neighborhood Association
- White's Print Shop (local business owner and resident)
- Local school officials from Booker T. Washington, J.S. Clark, and the Academic Recovery and Career Discovery Center

5.2 MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

PROACTIVE MEDIA INTERACTIONS

Public notices will be placed with The Shreveport Times 30 days prior to each public meeting. To further promote the public involvement opportunities available, press releases and public service announcements (PSAs) will be released to print newspapers, television and radio stations whose coverage area includes the project area before and leading up to community meetings to be held in conjunction with the I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 project.

Press releases and PSAs will be released initially upon confirmation of workshop venues and again one to two days preceding each workshop, and will be approved by the client before submission from the Franklin Associates team to the media outlets. A Franklin Associates representative will be designated to serve as direct media liaison to facilitate any additional media needs, working closely with the NLCOG and Providence staff to assure timely and appropriate responses to any media requests. Recommendations for potential earned media if needed (i.e. media asked to notify public of meetings at no cost) include KTAL Channel 6, KSLA Channel 12, KTBS Channel 3, The Shreveport Times, The Sun Weekly, The Forum newspaper, and radio stations including KOKA, KDKS, KTAL, KWKH, KVKL, KTUX, KMJJ, Super Talk 1340, KDAQ, GAP Broadcasting, KBTT, KLKL, KEEL, KXKS, KRUF, KRMD, KVMA, KLSA and KLDN.

E-BLASTS

Email communication blasts will be sent to all contacts within the project database according to the following schedule. All e-blasts will be sent from the Franklin Associates correspondent utilizing the project email address, with responses flowing back through the same correspondent to allow coordination of any public responses to occur seamlessly. Each e-blast will contain a different content message, but will include information on upcoming workshops as mentioned in Figure 5.2.1.

Figure 5.2.1: E-Communication Schedule

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Three weeks prior to each meeting</i> | Save the Date email describing overall project and providing meeting dates |
| <i>One week prior to each meeting</i> | Check Your Calendar email to make sure participants are planning to attend |
| <i>Day before each meeting</i> | Reminder email |
| <i>Two weeks past each meeting</i> | Brief recap of meeting, information on upcoming meeting(s) |

5.3 COMMUNITY OUTREACH TOOLS

When any message needs to be communicated across a wide audience, there are segments of the population that are not reached by traditional media approaches. Community outreach effectively coordinates a practical and personal approach, bringing information directly to community residents and

stakeholders in a timely manner to increase comprehension of intricate details among a specific geographic or economic population.

To facilitate ongoing communication with as large a number of interested parties as possible, a project-specific community database will be developed within the first two weeks of approval of this Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan. This will include mail, email and/or telephone contact information for persons within the study area who may have expressed interest in similar projects in the past or may have the ability to share information across spectrums in the community, as well as local public officials. The consultant team will gather additional key contact information from interested agencies to supplement this database. This database will be designed for use in large-scale email communications for project updates, as well as for targeted mailings or telephone outreach when needed.

To supplement outreach to interested parties who may not be accessible by email, the Franklin Associates team will conduct meetings with key stakeholders and CAC members, especially in low-income and minority population areas, to assure information dissemination. Additionally, travelers within the proposed project area will be able to view project information on roadside banners and yard signs so that regardless of multiple users and varying presence times, all persons affected by the potential construction can become engaged.

BRANDING

Providing visual cohesion throughout all project materials, including advertisements, handouts, newsletters, banners, yard signs, flyers, and reports, will create consistency and identity for the project. Utilization of the I-49 logo is recommended for easy visibility on larger items, such as banners and yard signs, with side placements of FHWA and DOTD logos on all other materials. The project team will coordinate logo usage with Kent Rogers at NLCOG.

PROJECT NEWSLETTERS

Project newsletters will be developed and distributed among the community database frequently to allow a comprehensive overview of project status to be disseminated during the I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 project. This newsletter will be sent electronically to most database members, with content replicated on the project website. Additionally, these newsletters will be printed and mailed to identified stakeholders as needed.

PROJECT WEBSITE

Project information will be accessible through the I-49 Inner City Connector website at www.i49shreveport.com. Coordination of content placement will be conducted by the Providence team with content development assistance from Franklin. This website is anticipated to provide an overall project overview, timeline information, contact information, preliminary purpose and need, study area maps, community meeting announcements, and electronic copies of meeting presentations and newsletters.

OTHER OUTREACH TOOLS

To publicize the I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 public meetings, the following tools are recommended for employment in addition to personal interactions, project newsletters, website maintenance and media efforts:

- Project “Info Line” offering updated community meeting information by phone for easy reference on project materials and accessibility to citizens without internet service
- Project banners promoting upcoming public meetings posted in vicinity of key targeted areas, including:
 - a. Ford Street at Hearne Avenue
 - b. North Market Street at Hearne Avenue
 - c. Murphy Street at Pierre Avenue
- Project yard signs will be distributed to stakeholders, and placed in areas including:
 - a. Ford Street at Ernest T. Miller Street, near J.S. Clark Middle School
 - b. North Market Street near Podnuh’s BBQ
 - c. Martin Luther King Drive at David Raines Road
 - d. Ford Street at Pierre Avenue
 - e. Milam Street at Sycamore Street, across from C&C Café

5.4 SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Certain groups of persons will require extra effort to contact and solicit their participation in this I-49 Inner City Connector planning process. These groups include the elderly and infirmed, shut-ins, visually or folks who are otherwise physically impaired.

ELDERLY AND DISABLED POPULATIONS

Some elderly residents of Allendale and neighborhoods surrounding the proposed project corridor may have difficulty attending a public meeting, or experience difficulty expressing themselves or effectively interacting in a public forum environment so that they make themselves understood. Yet, these individuals are often invaluable resources because they knew the area back in its heyday. The younger generations have seen only decay and disinvestment, but their elders knew an era of active streets and shops.

Outreach to these elderly populations will be accomplished through contact through their social and care organizations. Many of these folks reside in housing managed by a faith-based or other nonprofit agency. By including representatives of these organizations and agencies as members of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, rest home residents will be notified of the process, of upcoming events, and of outcomes. Their input can be collected via written letters, questionnaires, meeting attendance, and the project website comment form.

BUSINESSES AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

Outreach to specific organizations with project interests listed above, as well as to community organizations and homeowner associations, will be made via email to those for whom email addresses are available (including those who provided email addresses during the Stage 0 project processes) and via telephone for those who do not have email addresses available. Any such organizations identified without telephone numbers available will be reached by mail or in person.

Figure 5.4.1: Outreach Task Optimal Timeframes

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 weeks prior to public meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure meeting venues • Develop public notice content for public meeting • Initiate project info line (800 number) • Finalize development of promotional items (banners, yard signs, flyers, press releases, e-blasts) Conduct community stakeholder and CAC meetings |
| <p>4 weeks prior</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact media to schedule interviews for public meetings • Place public notice in area newspaper for public meeting • Print project banners • Print project yard signs • Outreach to community organizations by phone, email, or in person |
| <p>3 weeks prior</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out e-blast 1 • Outreach to community organizations by phone, email, or in person • Outreach to owners or residents of properties within the 1,000 foot wide corridor by phone, mail, email, or in person • Place project banners • Place project yard signs |
| <p>1 week prior</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release/PSA 1 • Contact media to pitch stories • Send out e-blast 2 (reminder e-blast) • Make follow-up contacts to organizations |
| <p>Week of public meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Press Release/ PSA 2 (reminder) • Send out e-blast 3 (reminder e-blast) • Conduct public meetings |

APPENDIX A – SOLICITATION OF VIEWS REQUEST LETTER AND LISTING OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING SECOND ROUND OF SOLICITATION OF VIEW REQUESTS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>DEPT OF CULTURE RECREATION & TOURISM PO BOX 44247 CAPITOL ANNEX 3RD BATON ROUGE LA 70804</p> | <p>FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PGM DOTD-ROOM 430 PO BOX 94245 BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9245</p> | <p>DEPT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY OFFICE OF SOIL / WATER CONSERVATION PO BOX 3554 BATON ROUGE LA 7070821-3554</p> |
| <p>DARREN GREEN, PRESIDENT DEPT OF AGRI & FORESTRY OFFICE OF FORESTRY PO BOX 1628 BATON ROUGE LA 70821</p> | <p>CHARLES ST ROMAIN DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION STATE LAND OFFICE PO BOX 44124 BATON ROUGE LA 70804</p> | <p>MR JAMES CHAMPAGNE DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION PO BOX 66336 BATON ROUGE LA 70896</p> |
| <p>MR JAMES H WELSH LA DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION PO BOX 94275 BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9275</p> | <p>MONA KOGEL, DIRECTOR INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF LA, INC 5723 SUPERIOR DR, S.B-1 BATON ROUGE LA 70816</p> | <p>OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS JOEY STRICKLAND, DIRECTOR 365 N FOURTH ST PO BOX 94004 BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9004</p> |
| <p>DONALD GOHMERT NATURAL RESOURCES CONS SERVICE 3737 GOVERNMENT ST ALEXANDRIA LA 71302</p> | <p>GUS C RODEMACHER LA STATE MINERAL BOARD PO BOX 2827 BATON ROUGE LA 70804</p> | <p>MR MICHAEL P JANSKY 6ENXP ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 1445 ROSS AVE DALLAS TX 75202-2733</p> |
| <p>DISTRICT COMMANDER 8TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT HALE BOGGS FEDERAL BLDG 500 POYDRAS NEW ORLEANS LA 70130</p> | <p>SENATOR DAVID VITTER UNITED STATES SENATE 516 HART SENATE OFFICE BLVD WASHINGTON DC 20510</p> | <p>GARLAND COLVIN LOUISIANA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2024 DULVERTON CT SHREVEPORT LA 71118</p> |
| <p>HONORABLE BOBBY JINDAL GOVERNOR STATE OF LOUISIANA PO BOX 94004 BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9004</p> | <p>SENATOR MARY LANDRIEU UNITED STATES SENATE 724 HEART SENATE OFFICE BLVD WASHINGTON DC 20510</p> | <p>LOUISIANA STATE POLICE TROOP G 5300 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE EXTENSION BOSSIER CITY LA 71112</p> |
| <p>DIANE HEWITT LDEQ/COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PO BOX 4301 BATON ROUGE LA 70821</p> | | |

APPENDIX B – PROJECT SCOPING MEETING INVITATION LIST

| Name | Agency/Organization/Company | Address |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Amity Bass, Biologist Manager | Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program | 2000 Quail Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70808 |
| Patti Holland | US Fish & Wildlife Service | 646 Cajundome Blvd, Suite 400 Lafayette, LA 70506 |
| David Lofton | Vicksburg District US Army Corps Of Engineers | 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183 |
| Woody Wilson | Caddo Parish Commission Parish Administrator | P.O. Box 1127 Shreveport, LA 71163-1127 |
| Mayor Cedric B Glover | City Of Shreveport | 505 Travis Street Suite 200 Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Sheriff Steve Prator | Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office | 505 Travis Street 7th Floor Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Honorable Patrick C. Williams | State Representative District 4 | 1500 N. Market Street, Suite A200 Shreveport, LA 71107 |
| Honorable James H. Morris | State Representative District 1 | P.O. Box 217 Oil City, LA 71061 |
| Honorable Roy A. Burrell | State Representative District 2 | 820 Jordan Street, Ste. 315A Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Honorable Richard T. Burford | State Representative District 7 | 671 Hwy 171, Suite E Stonewall, LA 71078 |
| Honorable Alan Seabaugh | State Representative District 5 | 610 Marshall St, Suite 700 Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Honorable Barbara M Norton | State Representative District 3 | 3245 Hollywood Avenue Shreveport, LA 71108 |
| Honorable BL Buddy Shaw | State Senator District 37 | 3825 Gilbert Shreveport, LA 71104 |
| Honorable Lydia P Jackson | State Senator District 39 | 330 Marshall Street, Suite 706 Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Honorable Thomas G Carmody Jr | State Representative District 6 | 5916 Fairfield Avenue Shreveport, LA 71106 |
| Honorable Sherri Smith Cheek | State Senator District 38 | 9973 Mansfield Road Keithville, LA 71047 |
| Honorable John Fleming | 4th Congressional District | 1023 Longworth Hob Washington, DC 20515 |

I-49 INNER CITY CONNECTOR STAGE 1 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

| Name | Agency/Organization/Company | Address |
|--|---|--|
| Shreveport City Council | Arthur Thompson/Clerk | 505 Travis Street 1st Floor Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Kim Mitchell | Sutton Mitchell Beebe and Babin Architects LLC | 333 Texas Street Suite 1200 Shreveport, LA 71101-5350 |
| Bonnie Moore, Director | City Of Shreveport Office Of Community Development | 401 Texas Street Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Paula Hickman | The Community Foundation | 401 Edwards Street Suite 105 Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Dr. Gerald Dawkins | Caddo Parish School Board | P.O. Box 32000 Shreveport, LA 71130-2000 |
| Richard Bremer, President | Greater Shreveport Chamber Of Commerce | 400 Edwards St. Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Robert Glass, Director | Caddo Parish Commission Public Works Department | 505 Travis Street (Suite 820) Shreveport, LA 71101 |
| Lismary Gavillan, Area Engineer | Louisiana Division Federal Highway Administration | 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite 1 Baton Rouge, LA 70808 |
| Bob Mahoney, Environmental Coordinator | Louisiana Division Federal Highway Administration | 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite 1 Baton Rouge, LA 70808 |
| Dan Broussard | LA Department Of Transportation and Development, Section 85 Planning & Programming Division | P.O. Box 94245 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245 |
| John Sanders | LA Department of Transportation and Development, District 4 | P.O. Box 38 Baton Rouge, LA 71161 |

APPENDIX C – FHWA NOTICE OF INTENT



6622

Federal Register / Vol. 77, No. 26 / Wednesday, February 8, 2012 / Notices

September 30, 2012, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these Determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including an art object list, contact Julie Simpson, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: (202) 632-6467). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, SA-5, L/PA, Fifth Floor (Suite 5H03), Washington, DC 20522-0505.

Dated: January 30, 2012.

J. Adam Ereli,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2012-2903 Filed 2-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement:
Caddo Parish, LA

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Carl M. Highsmith, Project Delivery Team Leader, Louisiana Division, Federal Highway Administration, 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, Telephone: (225) 757-7615; or online at www.I49shreveport.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct the I-49 Inner City Connector.

The proposed project is an approximate 3.8 mile new freeway designed to connect existing I-49 at its current junction with I-20 to future I-49 North at its proposed junction with I-220 in Shreveport, Louisiana. The proposed project will provide for improved connectivity and reduce the distance between existing I-49 and future I-49 North by approximately 7 miles. Alternatives under consideration include: (1) Taking no action; (2)

constructing an elevated freeway on new location; (3) constructing an at-grade freeway on new location; and (4) constructing a freeway that is partly elevated and partly at-grade on new location. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment.

Letters describing the proposed project and soliciting comments were sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of Community Input Meetings were held at various locations in Shreveport in December 2011. In addition, a second round of Community Input Meetings are planned for spring 2012 followed by a Public Hearing late 2012. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the Public Hearing. A formal scoping meeting was held at NLCOG on October 18, 2011, when the NLCOG approved the decision to move the project forward as an Environmental Assessment. On December 1, 2011, FHWA determined the required class of action to comply with the NEPA process as an Environmental Impact Statement. Additional public scoping was conducted during the Community Input Meetings held in December 2011.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed project are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed project and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: January 12, 2012.

Charles W. Bolinger,

Division Administrator, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

[FR Doc. 2012-2772 Filed 2-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice of Final Federal Agency Action
on Proposed Bridge Replacement in
Massachusetts

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Limitations on Claims for Judicial Review of Action by FHWA.

SUMMARY: This notice announces action taken by the FHWA that is final within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). The action relates to the proposed Whittier Bridge (Interstate 95 over the Merrimack River) replacement/1-95 Improvement project in Newburyport, Amesbury and Salisbury, Massachusetts. The action grants an approval for the project under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

DATES: By this notice, the FHWA is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. Sec. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency action on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before August 6, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For FHWA: Damaris Santiago, Environmental Engineer, FHWA Massachusetts Division Office, 55 Broadway, 10th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02142, (617) 494-2419, dsantiago@dot.gov. For Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division: James Cerbone, Project Manager, MassDOT Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260, Boston, MA 02116, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., (617) 973-7529, James.Cerbone@state.ma.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the FHWA has taken final agency action subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1) by issuing approval for the following bridge/highway improvement project in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The proposed project involves as its centerpiece the replacement of the John Greenleaf Whittier Bridge over the Merrimack River. It also includes the replacement or reconstruction of four bridges along 1-95 in Newburyport and Amesbury and the widening of 1-95 between Exit 57 in Newburyport and Exit 60 in Salisbury. When completed, there will be four travel lanes, a shoulder adjacent to the high speed lane and a breakdown lane in each direction. The Whittier Bridge/1-95 Improvement Project was recently selected by the Obama Administration for expedited permitting and environmental review. It is one of