

Chapter 9: Coordination

This chapter describes the public and agency coordination efforts for the Central Utah Rail Draft EIS.

The Central Utah Rail Draft EIS process was initiated on September 30, 2003, when a Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* formally announcing that the Surface Transportation Board was preparing an EIS for the proposed Central Utah Rail project. The notice included a brief description of the proposed project.

9.1 Agency Coordination

Prior to the beginning of the public scoping period, the Board began inviting agencies with interests in the corridor to participate in the environmental review process. Their comments helped the Board determine what level of study was required for the proposed rail line. The agencies were asked to help identify environmental concerns and issues in the corridor. An agency scoping meeting was held on May 21, 2003, to solicit additional agency comments regarding the project.

The comments collected from the agencies both before and during the public scoping period are included in this document and will be used to help identify potential issues that need further review in the CURP EIS process.

A total of 37 agency comments were received before and during the public scoping period. Many of the comments identified several issues. The comments received are summarized in Section A.6, Agency and Native American Comments, in Appendix A, Agency and Public Scoping Summary Report, of this EIS. Copies of the original agency comments are included in Appendix D, Copies of Comments, which is included in Appendix A, Agency and Public Scoping Summary Report, of this EIS.

The Final EIS will document and address comments received on the Draft EIS. It will also document any mitigation commitments that might be associated with the CURP alternatives. The Final EIS will be available for public review and comment. The public comment period for the Final EIS is 30 days.

9.2 Public Involvement

This section summarizes the Board's public scoping process including preparation, notification, open house activities, and comments received during the scoping portion of the Central Utah Rail EIS project.

9.2.1 Public Scoping Meeting Notification

To initiate the EIS process, the Board released a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 2003, announcing the start of the scoping process. The NOI included the dates and times of the public meetings (see Appendix A, Notice of Intent, which is included in Appendix A, Agency and Public Scoping Summary Report, of this EIS). Additional methods used to notify the public of the scoping meetings in the project area are listed below.

1. SEA placed paid legal advertisements in the following newspapers:
 - *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News* (statewide circulation) on October 16, 2003
 - *Sanpete Messenger* (Manti) on October 16, 2003
 - *The Pyramid* (Mt. Pleasant) on October 16, 2003
 - *The Richfield Reaper* (Richfield) on October 15, 2003
 - *Salina Sun* and *Gunnison Valley News* (Gunnison) on October 15, 2003
 - *The Times-News* (Nephi) on October 15, 2003
2. A media release was prepared by the Board and sent out to the media on October 20, 2003.
3. About 70 newsletters were distributed to individuals on the CURP mailing list on October 14, 2003.
4. Several media outlets ran stories about the project before and after the public meetings. The dates and publications of those articles are listed below.
 - October 8, 2003, *The Richfield Reaper* (Richfield)
 - October 8, 2003, *Gunnison Valley News* and *Salina Sun* (Gunnison)
 - October 8, 2003, *The Times-News* (Nephi)
 - October 29, 2003, *Gunnison Valley News* and *Salina Sun* (Gunnison)
 - October 29, 2003, *The Richfield Reaper* (Richfield)
 - November 5, 2003, *The Richfield Reaper* (Richfield)

The above materials are provided in Appendix E, Public Scoping Materials, which is included in Appendix A, Agency and Public Scoping Summary Report, of this EIS.

9.2.2 Public Scoping Open Houses

In October 2003, the Board held two open-house-format public scoping meetings. Below are the dates and locations of the public scoping open houses:

Wednesday, October 22, 2003
North Sevier High School
Salina, Utah

Thursday, October 23, 2003
Gunnison City Hall
Gunnison, Utah

There were a total of 107 signatures on the attendance sheets for the two meetings. A total of 36 individual comments were received. Those comments are included in Appendix D, Copies of Comments, which is contained in Appendix A, Agency and Public Scoping Summary Report, of this EIS.

The first open house was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, at the North Sevier High School in Salina from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A total of 74 people signed the register and 19 submitted comments.

The second open house was held on Thursday, October 23, 2003, at the Gunnison City Hall in Gunnison from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A total of 33 individuals signed the register and 7 submitted comments.

Following the meetings, an additional 50 comments were received from individuals who have interests in the project, for a total of 76 individual public comments.

9.2.3 Draft EIS Public Hearing

A Notice of Availability on the Draft EIS will be published to formally announce the availability of the Draft EIS. A date for the Draft EIS Public Hearing has not yet been set.

9.2.4 Newsletters and Other Publications

Letters of notification for the agency scoping meeting on May 21, 2003, were mailed on April 1, 2003, to about 44 agencies and stakeholders representing interests in the corridor. These letters invited the agencies and stakeholders to attend the agency scoping meeting and provide comments on the project. Project representatives made follow-up phone calls to the invitees on April 24, 2003, through April 25, 2003, and again on May 15, 2003, to ensure that the agencies had received notice of the meetings. Copies of these letters and the initial project mailing list are included in Appendix B, Agency Coordination, which is contained in Appendix A, Agency and Public Scoping Summary Report, of this EIS. There were 29 attendees at this meeting representing 19 agencies.

These agencies were again invited to submit comments during the CURP public scoping period. A letter with project information, a request for agency comments, and an invitation to the public scoping meetings was mailed to agencies on October 14, 2003.

9.3 Conclusion

The project team has received input from the agency representatives, city and county officials, and residents in the project area. This input has been useful in helping the project team balance and prioritize the alternatives to meet the needs of the public as a whole. The public has also provided the necessary support for the proposed alternatives.

All comments will be considered before the Board issues a decision on the project. All public and agency involvement materials for the Central Utah Rail Draft EIS are included in the project's administrative record.