



7.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

This chapter documents the dialogue between DART and interested citizens and agencies regarding issues raised by the design and construction of the proposed project.

7.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The purpose of the **Public & Agency Involvement Plan** (PIP) for the Irving/DFW Line PE/EIS is to support the DART decision-making process over the course of project development. The following goals are consistent with existing practices of the DART Community Affairs Department, as well as with those strategies recommended by the Federal Transit Administration in the publication **Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decision-Making** (September 1996). Based on identified issues and public input from the Northwest Corridor MIS process, the goals for this Public Involvement Program are as follows:

- articulating the mission statement, goals, and objectives of the public and agency outreach activities;
- identifying the target audiences of the study;
- establishing a framework for the structure of and schedule for program activities;
- using specific methods or activities that reach target audiences while achieving desired results;
- describing how public and agency issues and concerns will be documented and addressed;
- developing evaluation and monitoring techniques to measure program effectiveness;
- and identifying methods to maintain public support through subsequent stages of project development.

This PIP is a modified version of the plan developed for the Farmers Branch / Carrollton Line PE/EIS effort, which in turn was based on the Public and Agency Involvement Program originally developed as part of the Northwest Corridor **Major Investment Study** (MIS). Because issues related to the Irving PE/EIS are more localized in nature than issues related to the overall Northwest Corridor MIS – for example, stations, station area plans, local neighborhoods, and local business interests – this PIP has retained those elements that are appropriate to this phase of project development but has eliminated other elements of the MIS Public and Agency Involvement Program that are not necessary at this level of analysis. The PIP addresses the techniques, timing, and content of the information distributions and participatory events necessary to refine alignments and define specific station locations for preliminary engineering.

Implementing the PIP has taken the form of meetings with the DART Board, City Councils, Regional Agencies, a Community Work Group (CWG), and a Staff Work Group (SWG). Outreach has also involved publishing semi-annual newsletters that are both distributed to interested stakeholders, and posted electronically on DART's website at:

<http://www.dart.org/nwdfwcorridor.asp>

The DART website also provides the community access to project information through the World Wide Web. It takes advantage of Internet capabilities to provide facts about the project, project updates, newsletters, public meeting notices, and presentation materials. The draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements will be available on-line. The web site also provides the means for direct e-mail or phone communications to the project team. In addition to the web page, DART maintains a customer information telephone line to provide a means for interested persons in the community to contact DART and receive information about the project. DART also keeps a directory of both SWG and CWG participants in order to keep interested participants updated with the project's progress.



7.1.1 Summary of Public and Agency Participation

The most important outreach efforts related to the proposed project were focused on engaging the participation of the general public, including both individuals and groups with an interest in the progress and outcome of the PE/EIS phase of the project. For the purposes of this DEIS, the Public and Agency Involvement effort initially concentrated on project start-up and scoping. Later efforts were made to transition to alignment and station area definition and refinement, impact assessment and development of mitigation options.

A pre-scoping meeting was conducted with project stakeholders and the general public in March 2005. Formal public and agency scoping meetings were conducted in May and June of 2005. Scoping is a study process designed to inform the public, interest groups, and involved agencies about the proposed project, and to present the proposed actions, alternatives, and issues for public and agency review. The main goal of the process is to encourage the active participation of the public, groups, and agencies early in the decision-making process. It provides the public the opportunity to communicate issues and concerns to the project team and to help develop alternatives before considerable time and effort have been put into the process.

During the scoping and planning of the proposed project, DART actively engaged agencies and interested parties along the alignment in a proactive and iterative public involvement process. **Table 7-1** documents the meetings DART staff convened in order to present information and solicit questions and comments as the project was being planned. In addition to being especially informative to the design option alternatives that were developed in response to comments, this process was consistent with DART's commitment to its Public and Agency Involvement Plan.

A Staff Work Group (SWG) was developed during the MIS stage to assist in the effective communication between DART and agency representatives at the federal, state, and local level. SWG members included representatives of DART, FTA, DFW Airport, FAA, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Cities of Dallas and Irving. As **Table 7-1** shows, there have been several meetings between these agency representatives over the past two years. In addition, there is a weekly staff meeting attended by representatives of DART, the City of Irving and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) which also serves the purposes of the SWG.

In addition to the SWG, a Community Work Group (CWG) was formed during the MIS process. CWG members were self-nominated at the overall project's initial scoping meetings in December 2000, and include active members of community organizations, business representatives, and other stakeholder groups. It was determined that the Irving Citizens Advisory Committee (ICAC), an existing citizen committee focusing on transportation issues, would serve as the CWG for the Irving/DFW project. ICAC generally meets every other month and participation is open to anyone interested in attending. Over the past several years, approximately 160 people have participated in the forum. Meetings are posted on the City of Irving Web Site and DART has encouraged participation in the forum through its public participation program.

In addition to these meetings, DART has conducted several public meetings to review progress. DART held three public meetings about the project in 2004. In August 2005, a special forum sponsored by North Lake College was held to discuss the proposed station to be located adjacent to the college campus. A public meeting was held in November 2005 to present the Station Evaluation Process and receive comments, and another in March 2007 on project progress.

In addition to these meetings, DART has a regular, standing staff coordination meeting which is typically attended by DART, City of Irving and NCTCOG staff. These meetings usually occur every Wednesday at DART's headquarters in downtown Dallas. These meetings combined with Agency and City meetings listed in **Table 7-1** meet the requirements of the PIP Staff Work Group (SWG) for this project.





**TABLE 7-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION**

Meeting	Date	Location
Public Meetings		
Public Meeting No. 1	01/21/04	Irving Arts Center
Public Meeting No. 2	04/28/04	Irving Arts Center
Public Meeting No. 3	11/10/04	Irving Arts Center
North Lake Community Forum	08/25/05	North Lake College
Public Meeting No. 4 – Station Evaluations	11/17/05	Dallas Marriot-Las Colinas
DART Transit System Plan	08/11/06	Irving City Hall
Public Meeting No. 5	03/20/07	North Lake College Library
Scoping Meetings		
Public Pre-Scoping Meeting	03/10/05	Irving Arts Center
Agency Scoping Meeting	05/25/05	DART Headquarters
Public Scoping Meeting	06/29/05	University of Dallas
Agency and City Meetings		
City of Irving	11/07/03	Irving City Hall
City of Irving Staff & Interested Parties Corridor Bus Tour	11/24/03	Corridor
Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) Board	01/15/04	DCCCD Headquarters
DCCCD Board	04/06/04	DCCCD Headquarters
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) Staff	05/21/04	DFW Airport
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) re: SH 114	06/25/04	DART Headquarters
DFW Staff	07/14/04	DFW Airport
Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District (DCURD)	10/12/04	Las Colinas
DFW Staff	11/05/04	DFW Airport
DFW / Fort Worth Transportation Authority (FWTA) / Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) / North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) / Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) / Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	12/13/04	DFW Airport
FAA	01/10/05	FAA Headquarters-FWorth
FAA and FTA	02/09/05	FAA Headquarters-FWorth
DFW / FTWA / DCTA / NCTCOG / FAA / FTA	02/23/05	DFW Airport
Las Colinas APT Tour: DCURD, NCTCOG, City of Irving and Property Owners	04/13/05	Las Colinas
DFW / FTWA / DCTA / NCTCOG / FAA / FTA	07/19/05	DFW Airport
North Texas Turnpike Authority (NTTA)	08/19/05	NTTA Offices
TxDOT re: Spur 348	08/22/05	TxDOT District Office
TxDOT re: Spur 348	08/26/05	TxDOT District Office
NTTA	09/02/05	NTTA Offices
TxDOT District Offices	10/07/05	TxDOT District Office
DCURD	10/19/05	Las Colinas
DFW Staff	10/26/05	DFW Airport
DFW Staff	11/21/05	DFW Airport
TxDOT re: SH 114	12/14/05	DART Headquarters
TxDOT re: Spur 348	12/19/05	TxDOT District Office
DCCCD Staff	02/13/06	Eastfield Campus
State Legislative Aide Tour	03/30/06	Corridor
TxDOT re: Spur 348	04/28/06	TxDOT District Office
DFW Staff	05/05/06	DFW Airport
TxDOT re: Spur 348	06/07/06	TxDOT District Office





**TABLE 7-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION**

Meeting	Date	Location
Agency and City Meetings (continued)		
DFW Staff	06/09/06	DFW Airport
DFW Staff	06/29/06	DFW Airport
DFW/City of Irving Staff	07/12/06	Irving City Hall
DFW/City of Irving Staff	07/22/06	Irving City Hall
TxDOT Staff	07/28/06	TxDOT District Office
NTTA	08/02/06	NTTA Offices
FAA and DFW	09/15/06	FAA Headquarters
TxDOT	09/20/06	TxDOT District Office
TxDOT	09/22/06	TxDOT District Office
Dallas Parks & Recreation	09/13/06	DART Headquarters
DFW Staff	10/19/06	DFW Airport
DFW Staff	11/01/06	DFW Airport
City of Irving Staff	01/05/07	DART Headquarters
TxDOT re: Spur 348	01/26/07	TxDOT District Office
DART Fire/Life Safety Committee	02/12/07	DARTE Headquarters
City of Irving/Public Hearing	02/22/07	Irving City Hall
DFW Staff	03/02/07	DFW Airport
Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings (serve as Community Work Group [CWG] meetings)		
Irving Citizens Advisory Committee (ICAC)	02/17/04	Irving City Hall
ICAC	04/20/04	Irving City Hall
DART Citizens Advisory Committee	06/17/04	DART HQ
ICAC	02/22/05	Irving City Hall
ICAC	04/12/05	Irving City Hall
ICAC	06/14/05	Irving City Hall
ICAC	08/16/05	Irving City Hall
ICAC	10/11/05	Irving City Hall
ICAC	02/21/06	Irving City Hall
ICAC	04/11/06	Irving City Hall
ICAC	8/22/06	Irving City Hall
ICAC	10/24/06	Irving City Hall
ICAC	12/12/06	Irving City Hall
ICAC	04/10/07	Irving City Hall
Community Meetings and Briefings		
Property Owner: Verizon	06/30/04	Verizon Offices, Coppell
University of Dallas (UD)	07/22/04	UD Campus
Property Owner: Verizon	08/26/04	Verizon Offices, Coppell
Property Owner: Central Freight	11/18/04	Las Colinas
North Lake College	12/02/04	NLC Campus
Property Owner: JPI	08/15/05	Las Colinas
Property Owner: Hines	11/08/05	Dallas
Mandalay Place Homeowners Association (HOA)	11/14/05	Las Colinas
Property Owner: Crow Holdings	02/02/06	Dallas
Mandalay Place HOA	02/07/06	City of Irving City Hall
North Las Colinas Interested Parties (Crow Holdings, Hines, DCURD, City of Irving, TxDOT, DART)	03/23/06	City of Irving City Hall
North Las Colinas Interested Parties	03/31/06	City of Irving City Hall
Rosemont Apartments	04/06/06	Rosemont Apartments





**TABLE 7-1 (continued)
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION**

Meeting	Date	Location
Community Meetings and Briefings (continued)		
American Airlines	06/30/06	DART Headquarters
Property Owner: Irving	08/16/06	Irving City Hall
Mandalay Place HOA	12/05/06	Las Colinas
Las Colinas Property Owners	12/08/06	DART Headquarters
North Lake College	12/13/06	NLC Campus
Property Owners: Crow Holdings	01/05/07	Dallas
North Lake College	03/15/07	NLC Campus
Property Owner: TXU	04/18/07	TXU Headquarters
Property Owner: Hines	04/25/07	DART Headquarters
Coldwell Residential Reality	05/22/07	Irving Office
Swearingen Realty	06/05/07	Dallas
Property Owner: Crow Holdings	06/08/07	Dallas
Property Owner: Verizon	06/14/07	Verizon
Offices DFW Property Owner: Icon	06/26/07	Icon
Dallas Property Owner: Verizon	06/28/07	Verizon
Verizon Offices DFW Swearingen Realty	06/28/07	Dallas
DART Board of Directors		
DART Board Briefing	02/24/04	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	12/14/04	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	01/25/05	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	02/02/05	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	03/22/05	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	10/25/05	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	02/22/06	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	04/25/06	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	05/09/06	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	08/08/06	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	08/22/06	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	01/05/07	DART Headquarters
DART Board Briefing	03/06/07	DART Headquarters

Source: DART, 2007

7.2 AGENCY COORDINATION

In addition to the public and agency involvement meetings, DART staff conferred with municipal agencies from Dallas and Irving, the DFW Airport, and with other regional agencies in order to ensure concurrence on potential environmental impacts, and to coordinate mitigation efforts with other guidance and current planning provisions. Other coordination has been conducted with:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)
- Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA)
- Fort Worth Transportation Authority (FWTA)
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Dallas County
- Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District (DCURD)
- Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD)

Copies of the Agency Coordination letters are reproduced in Appendix D of this document. The majority of coordination with resource agencies occurred during scoping and will increase as Final Design is initiated. All agencies will have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIS.

7.3 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT AND THE DRAFT EIS

The Draft EIS acts as a public disclosure document, in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, by presenting the anticipated environmental consequences of the Build and No-Build Alternatives with their reasonable and feasible mitigation measures. Once the Draft EIS is approved for public circulation by the FTA, copies of the document will be made available to members of the community and organizations, as well as appropriate local, state and federal agencies for their review and comment. The Draft EIS will be available on-line, at local libraries and by request. Its availability for comment will be officially advertised in the Federal Register as well as through the local press. Formal public hearings will be held within the project corridor in order to give interested parties the opportunity to formally submit comments on the Draft EIS; these hearings will also serve as an opportunity for further public comment on the LRT alignment, station locations and grade separation requirements. The hearings will include a technical presentation to be followed by time for oral testimony. Additional or subsequent written comments may be received at DART headquarters. Prior to the public hearings, DART will hold an informational public meeting.

7.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMENTS AND RESPONSES RECEIVED

As is consistent with FTA guidance, DART will conduct public hearing(s) on this DEIS. All correspondence, along with the transcripts from the public meetings, will be reviewed. Substantive comments will be classified and recorded into appropriate subject areas. All comments will be reviewed, will receive complete responses, and will be documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.