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## 7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### 7.1 BACKGROUND

Diversity defines the demographics of the many communities that comprise the West Corridor. Long-established industrial, commercial, residential and business communities exist in the corridor. From ethnic diversity to economic diversity, the West Corridor is a blend of different people.

In order to define the corridor's diversity, the project team used sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau and the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), to identify the number and location of minority, low income, zero automobile households and non-English-speaking citizens. These groups were mapped using geographic information system technology by traffic analysis zones. The information was used to plan outreach methods, location and accommodation of meetings and information dissemination, as well as more technical detail such as type and location of stations.

In order to engage such a diverse community, the public involvement effort required careful customization. To determine the most effective ways to involve the community in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the project team needed a better understanding of who they are, their communication preferences, and what they currently thought about transportation issues in the West Corridor.

To gain this information, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) conducted a scientifically valid random telephone survey of 379 adults, 18 years of age and older, between July 24 and 29, 2001. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish. Professional interviewers were used to complete each survey, which averaged almost 15 minutes in length. The survey was designed to determine residents' perceptions about transportation issues and how to best keep them informed about the West Corridor EIS. Complete survey results may be found in the Public Involvement Notebook (see Section 7.2.8). From this research, a Public Involvement Plan was developed.

To guide all communications from every member of the project team, the following mission statement was developed:

*"We are committed to working with the community in identifying valuable solutions that improve transportation from Denver to Golden. Our specific objective is to complete a comprehensive study that identifies the positive and negative impacts of building light rail along the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. This study will be conducted over the next two years and will be most successful if it involves the active, cooperative participation from community members."*

#### 7.1.1 Notice of Intent

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2001. The Notice of Intent formally communicated the commencement of public involvement activities associated with this project including public scoping meetings (see Section 7.1.3).

#### 7.1.2 Mailing List Development

An initial mailing list of nearly 30,000 individuals and groups was compiled. Included in this comprehensive list were residents, business-owners, civic groups, neighborhood associations, religious groups, educational institutions, and others. Every entry on this list received a one-time mailing of a project newsletter and a postage-paid reply card to request that they remain on the ongoing mailing list.

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Through additional public outreach (i.e., public meetings, neighborhood briefings, the community information office, phone line, and website) individuals were given other opportunities to be added to the mailing list throughout the project.

There were 4,946 entries on the mailing list as of July 1, 2003. The list is used for dissemination of newsletters, e-mail updates, and other relevant project information.

### **7.1.3 EIS Scoping Meetings**

Four formal scoping meetings were held in conjunction with the EIS. These meetings were designed to share information about the project and collect comments, questions and feedback to help define the scope of the study. Additional input for the scoping process was gathered through small community briefings, the community information office, website and postage-paid comment cards.

#### **Agency Scoping**

In response to written invitations sent to 43 agencies, 36 individuals representing various local, regional, state and federal agencies attended the Agency Scoping Meeting held on August 30, 2001, at RTD in Denver. During the meeting, the project team provided an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and its application for the West Corridor EIS and distributed the Scoping Document. Questions were then answered regarding various issues. The meeting concluded with agencies being given until the end of October 2001 to submit written comments on the scope of the EIS.

#### **Public Scoping**

At three meetings in geographically diverse areas of the West Corridor, the project team explained the EIS process, the alternatives being considered, and the benefits and impacts being evaluated during the EIS process. They also presented the public involvement program and asked for ideas and comments from the attendees. A translator was available at each meeting to meet the needs of any Spanish-speaking attendees. The three meetings were:

- October 2, 2001, at the Sheraton Denver West, Golden
- October 3, 2001, at the Ganas Community Center, Denver
- October 4, 2001, at the Lakewood Civic Center, Lakewood

RTD staff made a presentation that included slides, maps and graphics depicting the purpose of the study, study process, the major issues to be addressed, the project area, the action and alternatives. Following the formal presentation, the public was encouraged to provide additional comments and raise concerns and issues in a workshop format. The room was organized into five discussion areas:

- General Comments
- Environmental
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Community Issues

Topical experts from the project team led each discussion. At each area, members of the public voiced concerns and discussed issues with staff. Each area also had a recorder who captured the issues on flip charts to verify the comment was accurately interpreted and to stimulate and encourage further discussion as new members of the public joined a discussion group.

Members of the public were also able to record verbal comments at a Comment Recording Station. All attendees were provided with the Scoping Document. All attendees were also given postage-paid comment cards that they were encouraged to complete and return if they thought of additional comments at a later date.

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## **7.2 METHODS OF COMMUNICATION**

In July 2001, RTD conducted a public involvement survey of residents living in the West Corridor. The research was designed to determine residents' perceptions of transportation issues and how to best keep them informed about the project. The results of this survey helped determine the appropriate communication tools to keep the public an educated, enabled and empowered part of the EIS.

A diverse collection of communication methods was implemented to help ensure that the public was informed about the process. These communication methods, discussed in further detail below, included:

- Newsletters (English and Spanish)
- Community Information Office
- Project Phone Line (English and Spanish)
- Project Website (English and Spanish)
- Graphics and Displays
- Fact Sheets (English and Spanish)
- Business Cards (English and Spanish)
- Postage-Paid Comment Cards
- E-mail Updates

### **7.2.1 Newsletters**

Beginning in September 2001, the project team produced and distributed a quarterly newsletter, *West Corridor Transit News*. Each issue of the newsletter educated the public about the project's process. In addition, the newsletters helped advertise public meetings, tours of Denver's current Light Rail system and other public involvement activities. As of July 1, 2003, eight newsletter issuances, totaling more than 90,000 newsletters, were distributed to corridor residents and businesses.

### **7.2.2 Community Information Office**

Two public information sites were established at locations centralized in the corridor. In September 2001, a community information office was opened at 8790 West Colfax Avenue, Lakewood. This office was open and staffed by members of the project team every Tuesday and Thursday. Members of the community could view project information, maps, reports, sketches, website, calendar, and ask questions of project team members. As of July 1, 2003, there have been 203 visits to the Community Information Office.

A second information kiosk was established at the Denver Human Services Building at 1200 Federal Boulevard, Denver. This information kiosk provided community members with access to the latest project publications and website in both English and Spanish.

### **7.2.3 Bi-Lingual Project Phone Line**

The project team established and promoted a project phone line (303-376-8394) in all communications. This phone line, offered in English and Spanish, provided an update on the project and allowed individuals and groups the opportunity to leave a message for the project team. All messages were retrieved and responded to within 24 hours. As of July 1, 2003, 111 calls were responded to.

### **7.2.4 Project Website**

The project team developed a bilingual website ([www.rtdwestcorridor.com](http://www.rtdwestcorridor.com)) to provide the public with the most up-to-date information on the project.

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This real-time updated website provided electronic access to the latest project information including:

- Draft EIS
- Calendar of events
- Newsletters
- Contact Reports
- Final Technical Reports
- Community-specific information
- Maps
- Pictures

In addition to sharing information, the project website provided the community with opportunities to share input and interact with the project team. The website included a comment-submittal form and meeting request form that enabled the public to electronically share input, ask questions and request a briefing with project representatives. During the Draft EIS public comment period, the website also contained a special form enabling individuals to formally submit comments online. The website also included a survey that allowed the project team to continually monitor and respond to public opinions throughout the project. As of July 1, 2003, there were 12,061 unique visitors to the West Corridor website, averaging more than seven minutes per visit.

### **7.2.5 Graphics and Displays**

Various graphics and displays were developed to help the public understand information related to the project. From maps and pictures to graphic representations of the NEPA process, graphics and displays were utilized to provide the public with a clearer understanding of the technical issues.

### **7.2.6 Public Information and Press Releases**

As appropriate, press releases, fact sheets, and media advisories were developed and distributed. These communication pieces revolved around milestones in the project (i.e., scoping meetings, large public meetings, launching the website, opening a community office, publishing survey results, and announcing Draft EIS public hearing).

### **7.2.7 Letters and Comments Received**

During the scoping process and throughout the project, the public was provided multiple means of submitting letters and comments to the technical team. Methods of submitting comments/letters included:

- Written comments at scoping meetings
- Verbal comments recorded at scoping meetings
- Postage-paid comment cards distributed at all meetings and briefings
- E-mail submitted to [info@rtdwestcorridor.com](mailto:info@rtdwestcorridor.com)
- Comment forms completed at [www.rtdwestcorridor.com](http://www.rtdwestcorridor.com)
- Recorded comments on the information line
- Comments submitted during visits to the community information office
- Comments submitted while participating in a community briefing

Until the publication of the Draft EIS, each of these comments was entered into a comment-tracking database that was developed to track all comments submitted to the project. This database was comprised of seven primary categories (Cost, RTD, EIS/Preliminary Engineering, Process, Land Use, Transportation, Community, and Environment). Each primary category had between three and nine sub-categories. Every comment was reviewed and sorted into one or more sub-categories. From this database, the project team monitored and responded to all community comments in a timely manner. Samples of the reports and a full list of comments can be viewed in the Public Involvement Notebook.

### **7.2.8 Public Involvement Notebook**

The public involvement notebook provides copies of all public involvement documents. One notebook is available for review at the project office and one is located at RTD's offices. Specific items in the notebook include:

- Results of July 2001 telephone survey

- The Public Involvement Plan
- Samples of the *West Corridor Transit News*
- Minutes of the agency and public scoping meetings
- Samples of the project website
- Samples of the press releases, fact sheets, and media alerts created for the EIS
- Meeting dates and brief overviews of each meeting
- A list of all Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings
- Transcript of Draft EIS Public Hearing

### 7.3 AGENCY COORDINATION AND CONTACT

Key local, state and federal agencies were contacted throughout the process. The purpose of these meetings was to provide technical direction regarding such issues as wetlands, wildlife and historic or archaeological properties. Resource agencies met with project staff either individually or collectively to address issues, assist in data collection or to provide general guidance. Coordination was accomplished with the following agencies:

#### **Federal Agencies:**

- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Public Utility Commission
- General Services Administration
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII
- Federal Highway Administration, Colorado Division
- Federal Railroad Administration, Region 6
- Federal Transit Administration, Region 8
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **State Agencies:**

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- State Historical Preservation Office
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Historical Society
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Economic Development of Colorado

#### **Regional Agencies:**

- DRCOG
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control
- Regional Air Quality Council
- **City/County of Denver:**
- Denver Parks Department
- Community Planning and Development Agency
- Denver Water
- Historic Preservation
- Housing and Neighborhood Development Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works Department
- Transportation Division
- **Jefferson County:**
- Community Development
- County Administrator's Office
- Health and Environment
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Highways and Transportation
- Planning and Zoning Department
- **City of Lakewood:**
- City Manager's Office
- Department of Community Planning and Development
- Department of Community Resources Parks and Recreation
- Lakewood Public Works Department
- Lakewood Housing Development Authority
- **City of Golden:**
- City Manager's Office
- Economic Development Commission
- Environmental Services Division
- Planning and Development Department
- Public Works Department

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**Miscellaneous:**

- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Mulholm Elementary School
- Eiber Elementary School
- Beth Jacobs High School
- Eiber Parent/Teacher Association
- Baker Elementary School
- Fairview Elementary School
- Bell Middle School
- Xcel Energy

### 7.3.1 Policy Advisory Committee

A Policy Advisory Committee was organized to provide policy-level advice to the EIS project team. The broad-based committee (53 members) is composed of elected and appointed officials in the corridor and has provided policy decision-making for key issues in the project. The Policy Advisory Committee meets quarterly to review technical data and make decisions, based on recommendations from the Policy Advisory Steering Committee. The Policy Advisory Committee has met four times since September 2001, as listed below in **Table 7-1**.

### 7.3.2 Policy Advisory Steering Committee

The purpose of the Policy Advisory Steering Committee is to review the technical committee's actions. The Steering Committee formed as a stem of the full Policy Advisory Committee when the Cities of Golden, Lakewood, and Denver decided a group was needed to discuss issues in more detail and to be able to more quickly respond to policy level decisions required by the technical project team. The Steering Committee was originally formed with representatives from only these cities as they felt they were most affected by the project.

The group first met in October 2001. The Steering Committee reviews material from the Technical Advisory Committee as well as other issues raised, comes to a consensus on the issues, and makes recommendations to the full Policy Advisory Committee. The Steering Committee's goal is to facilitate constructive, detail-oriented discussion and expeditious decision-making. The Policy Advisory Steering Committee has met seven times since November 2001 during the months between the quarterly Policy Advisory Committee meetings, as listed below in **Table 7-1**.

### 7.3.3 Technical Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee is to gain consensus on technical decisions by agency staff from recommendations to the Policy Advisory Committee and Policy Advisory Steering Committee. The committee (27 members) is comprised to include representatives of local government and public sector agencies along the corridor, along with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), RTD, DRCOG, Federal Highway Administration, and FTA. The Technical Advisory Committee has met monthly since September 2001, with the exception of June 2002 and December 2002, as listed in **Table 7-1**.

### 7.3.4 Organizations Consulted

Other organizations consulted consisted of private businesses or organizations as well as local government committees. They were consulted to gain perspective on community and business needs, address technical issues, and subsequently make recommendations to the project team, discuss potential future collaboration with RTD for the West Corridor line, and offer general advisement.

Meetings and other forms of coordination have taken place with:

- The Stadium District
- Colorado Mills Mall
- Red Rocks Community College
- Gambro Companies, Inc.
- The Auraria Higher Education Campus
- Burlington Northern Railroad
- Council of the Arts
- Lakewood Planning Commission

- Lakewood City Council
- Golden City Council
- West Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson County Open Space Commission
- Denver Planning
- Transit West
- Golden Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson County Commissioners
- Windish RV Center
- Jefferson County R-1 Schools
- Mile High Tree Service
- Suburban Propane
- Feeney Industrial Services
- Jefferson Economic Council
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson County Policy Council
- Jefferson County Association of Realtors

As of July 1, 2003, 68 meetings have been held with policy and business groups as well as elected officials and agencies. Attendance from these meetings totaled 1,253. **Table 7-1** summarizes these meetings.

**Table 7-1: Agency and Business Group Meetings**

Date	Group	Attendees
July 6, 2001	CDOT Briefing	1
August 3, 2001	Denver Political Briefing	2
August 17, 2001	CDOT Briefing	1
August 23, 2001	Denver Land Use and Transportation Plan Briefing	40
September 6, 2001	Senator Linkhart Political Briefing	1
September 6, 2001	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting	5
September 11, 2001	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	11
September 20, 2001	Golden City Council Briefing	10
September 25, 2001	Legislative Briefing	7
September 26, 2001	Neighborhood Partnership Briefing	38
October 1, 2001	Lakewood City Council Briefing	20
October 9, 2001	West Chamber of Commerce Briefing	1
October 17, 2001	Jefferson County Economic Council	2
October 17, 2001	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	13
October 31, 2001	City and County of Denver Briefing	4
November 7, 2001	Jefferson County Commissioners Briefing	5
November 12, 2001	Denver Partnership Briefing	15
November 12, 2001	Legislative Policy Briefing	7
November 16, 2001	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	28
November 20, 2001	General Services Administration Briefing	1
November 20, 2001	Lakewood Brick & Tile Briefing	1
November 20, 2001	Bandimere Speedway Briefing	1
November 27, 2001	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	27

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
December 12, 2001	Golden Chamber Introductory Briefing	1
December 12, 2001	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	25
December 13, 2001	Denver Parks Briefing	1
December 18, 2001	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	33
December 19, 2001	Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Introductory Briefing	4
January 15, 2002	Golden Business Forum Briefing	38
January 16, 2002	CDOT Intermodal Committee Briefing	15
January 16, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	36
January 18, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	15
January 30, 2002	Ready Foods Briefing	10
February 13, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	32
February 15, 2002	Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee Briefing	40
February 15, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	43
March 13, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	29
March 15, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	39
March 26, 2002	Kacey Fine Furniture Briefing	3
April 10, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	33
April 12, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	26
May 22, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	34
May 24, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	35
July 17, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	34
July 19, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	33
August 14, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	36
August 16, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	39
August 21, 2002	Mile High Tree Service Briefing	1
September 18, 2002	Colfax Community Association Briefing	20
September 25, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	30
September 27, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	30
October 23, 2002	National Renewable Energy Laboratory Briefing	7
October 24, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	20
October 25, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	35
November 20, 2002	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	20
November 22, 2002	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	27
January 21, 2003	Feeney Industrials Insulations Briefing	1
January 22, 2003	NREL Traffic Modeling Briefing	15
January 23, 2003	St. Anthony's Hospital	6
January 29, 2003	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	26

Date	Group	Attendees
January 31, 2003	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	24
February 25, 2003	St. Anthony's Hospital Briefing	5
February 26, 2003	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	32
February 28, 2003	Policy Advisory Steering Committee Meeting	29
April 8, 2003	Councilwoman Martinez Briefing	1
May 8, 2003	Suburban Propane Briefing	1
June 4, 2003	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	27
June 6, 2003	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting	21

#### 7.4 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND CONTACT

As of July 1, 2003, 73 general meetings were held with neighborhood and community groups. Attendance from these meetings totaled 1,174. These meetings varied from small living-room presentations with a few neighbors to large public meetings attended by the larger community. **Table 7-2** summarizes these meetings.

**Table 7-2: Neighborhood and Community Group Briefings**

Date	Group	Attendees
June 21, 2001	Eiber Neighborhood Association	100
August 8, 2001	Two Creeks Neighborhood Association Briefing	4
August 17, 2001	Luckland Vista Homeowners Association Briefing	1
August 22, 2001	Williams Telephone Briefing	1
August 29, 2001	Edgewood Community Introductory Briefing	1
August 29, 2001	Sun Valley Community Introductory Briefing	1
September 6, 2001	Villa Park Introductory Briefing	1
September 17, 2001	Green Acres Introductory Briefing	2
September 18, 2001	Barnum Improvement Council Briefing	5
September 26, 2001	Villa Park Community Briefing	18
September 27, 2001	Eiberhood Board Briefing	11
October 2, 2001	Bicycle Colorado Briefing	10
October 2, 2001	Golden Public Scoping Meeting	42
October 3, 2001	Denver Public Scoping Meeting	7
October 4, 2001	Lakewood Public Scoping Meeting	70
October 5, 2001	Jefferson Park Introductory Briefing	2
October 9, 2001	Manning In-Home Briefing	4
October 10, 2001	Prose In-Home Briefing	5
October 16, 2001	Yehle In-Home Briefing	18
October 18, 2001	Station Enhancement Group Briefing	20
October 22, 2001	Two Creeks Neighborhood Association Briefing	9
October 23, 2001	Fitzsimmons In-Home Briefing	7
October 24, 2001	Two Creeks Neighborhood Association Briefing	3

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
October 25, 2001	Daniels Welchester Introductory Briefing	1
October 29, 2001	Two Creeks Neighborhood Association Briefing	5
November 14, 2001	Station Enhancement Group Workshop #1	29
November 15, 2001	Eiberhood Briefing	50
January 3, 2002	Denver Bicycle Committee Presentation	8
January 16, 2002	Villa Park Briefing	45
January 28, 2002	Green Mountain Kiwanis Group Briefing	32
February 2, 2002	Station Enhancement Group Workshop #2	28
February 7, 2002	Alignment Residents Meeting	57
February 9, 2002	Mariposa Light Rail Transit (LRT) Maintenance Facility Tour	12
February 18, 2002	Lakewood Rotary Club Briefing	30
February 26, 2002	Baker Middle School Introductory Briefing	1
February 26, 2002	Fairview Elementary School Introductory Briefing	1
February 27, 2002	Question and Answer (Q&A) with Project Manager	4
March 8, 2002	Cheltenham Elementary School Introductory Briefing	1
March 11, 2002	Transit West Station Design Briefing	7
March 14, 2002	Debbie Ortega Briefing	1
March 16, 2002	Light Rail Hearing is Believing Tour	42
March 25, 2002	Denver Public Information Meeting	23
March 26, 2002	Lakewood Public Information Meeting	76
March 27, 2002	Q&A with Project Manager	5
April 6, 2002	Station Enhancement Group Workshop #3	20
April 9, 2002	Mulholm Elementary School CDM/PTA* Briefing	18
April 16, 2002	Sun Valley Briefing	7
April 23, 2002	Amberwick Homeowners Association Briefing	19
April 24, 2002	Safety/Security Q&A with Project Manager	5
May 1, 2002	Sixth Avenue West Estates Briefing	8
May 7, 2002	Eiber Elementary Introductory Briefing	1
May 16, 2002	Eiber Elementary PTA Briefing	5
May 29, 2002	Beth Jacob High School Briefing	2
May 29, 2002	Station Concept Q&A with Project Manager	4
June 22, 2002	Maintenance Facility Design Workshop	5
June 26, 2002	Q&A with Project Manager	6
June 26, 2002	Villa Park Briefing	20
July 31, 2002	End-of-Line Q&A w/ Project Manager	5
August 8, 2002	Sloans Lake Citizens Group Introductory Briefing	1
August 10, 2002	Seeing & Hearing is Believing Light Rail Tour	70
August 28, 2002	Traffic Congestion Q&A w/ Project Manager	6

Date	Group	Attendees
September 17, 2002	Daniels Welchester Briefing	45
October 3, 2002	Fairmount Improvement Association Briefing	13
October 9, 2002	Lakewood Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Briefing	9
October 9, 2002	Quailridge Board Briefing	5
October 9, 2002	Sloan's Lake Briefing	20
October 19, 2002	Seeing & Hearing is Believing Light Rail Tour	25
October 23, 2002	LDS Church Introductory Briefing	1
October 23, 2002	Villa Park Briefing	30
October 30, 2002	Noise & Vibration Q&A w/ Project Manager	12
November 27, 2003	Pre Draft EIS Q&A w/ Project Manager	3
January 29, 2003	Q&A w/ Project Manager	3
February 26, 2003	Q&A w/ Project Manager	6
March 26, 2003	Q&A w/ Project Manager	2
April 30, 2003	Q&A w/ Project Manager	3
May 28, 2003	Q&A w/ Project Manager	2

\* CDM/PTA - Cooperative Decision Making/Parent Teacher Association

#### 7.4.1 Public Meetings

Following the Scoping process, two rounds of public meetings were arranged. These meetings were advertised in five local newspapers and promoted via e-mail, project newsletter, community information office and all small-group meetings.

In March 2002, two public meetings were held. The meetings included a general presentation consisting of slides, maps and graphics depicting the progress that has been made in the EIS.

- March 25, 2002, at the Denver Human Services Building, Denver
- March 26, 2002, at the Sheraton Denver West, Golden

After the general presentation, general questions were taken from the audience. Following the general question and answer (Q&A) session, the public participated in one-on-one discussions with members of the technical team and public involvement team at five issue-specific discussion stations:

- Safety/Security
- Environmental Impacts
- Alternatives Considered
- Alignment/Station Locations
- General Comment Station

In early November 2002, public meetings were held to provide the public with an overview of the EIS and gather feedback prior to publishing the document. The meetings provided preliminary findings of the EIS. The meetings were held:

- November 6, 2002, at the Cajetan's Event Center, Auraria Campus, Denver
- November 7, 2002, at the Sheraton Denver West, Golden

#### 7.4.2 Small Group and Individual Meetings

Based on results of the survey conducted at the beginning of the project, the public showed a preference for more informal, small briefings rather than large public meetings. These briefings allowed the project

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team an opportunity to provide detailed project information in a very personalized manner to a large number of individuals.

Through targeted outreach, the team contacted neighborhood associations, business associations, civic groups, individual businesses and individual citizens to offer briefings. All information gathered from these meetings was documented in the Comment Tracking Database and shared with the project team.

### **7.4.3 Monthly Q&A with Project Manager**

From February 27, 2002 to April 30, 2003, monthly project updates were held at the community information office. These meetings provided the public with an additional opportunity to meet with RTD's project manager and discuss the project.

While questions were not limited to specific topic areas, each month a specific topic-area was the primary focus of the briefings. Topics were selected based on analysis of the Comment Tracking Database. When the database indicated more interest in a topic, the topic was added to the monthly Q&A schedule.

### **7.4.4 Station Enhancement Group Meetings**

Throughout the fall of 2001, citizens were encouraged to nominate themselves or others for a position on the Station Enhancement Group. Through the three Scoping Meetings, multiple small briefings, targeted outreach to neighborhood associations, e-mail and the project newsletter, citizens were invited to participate in this group.

More than 40 citizens accepted positions on the Station Enhancement Group. This group met three times between November 2001 and April 2002. In these meetings, the Station Enhancement Group worked with artists and the project team to provide input on station locations, station element designs, art-n-Transit, and potential transit-oriented development. Outcomes included development of station themes, inclusion of art in design and a station canopy design. The specific meetings were:

- November 14, 2001, at Stein Elementary School, Lakewood
- February 2, 2002, at the Sheraton Denver West, Golden
- April 6, 2002, at the Sheraton Denver West, Golden

### **7.4.5 Maintenance Facility Meetings**

In order to educate and involve the public with regard to the maintenance facility, two meetings were held specific to the facility. The first public meeting about the maintenance facility provided a tour of RTD's existing Mariposa facility. This meeting provided attendees with a better understanding of the activities that would occur at a West Corridor maintenance facility.

A Maintenance Facility Design Workshop was held with residents near the Harlan South Maintenance Facility. This meeting, also conducted at the existing Mariposa facility, provided a tour to educate participants about the activities that would be planned for the West Corridor facility. Following the tour, the project team worked with the residents to collect input on design elements (building features, landscaping options, mitigation, etc.) for the Harlan South facility. In total, 16 residents attended the meetings specific to the maintenance facility. These attendees included representatives from the bordering Two Creeks Neighborhood Association. The meetings were:

- February 11, 2002, at the Mariposa Maintenance Facility, Denver
- July 9, 2002, at the Mariposa Maintenance Facility, Denver

### **7.4.6 Light Rail System Tours**

As of July 1, 2003, the project team led three guided tours of RTD's existing light rail transit (LRT) lines. These tours were promoted to West Corridor residents and businesses through the quarterly newsletter, e-mail updates, and a postcard sent to the entire mailing list.

In total, more than 130 individuals attended the tour. Members of the project team provided commentary on the tour to help educate tour participants about a variety of issues including station design/layout, transit-oriented development, at-grade crossing treatments, and safety procedures. The specific tours were:

- March 16, 2002, on the Central and Southwest corridors
- August 10, 2002, on the Central and Southwest corridors
- October 19, 2002, on the Central and Southwest corridors

#### **7.4.7 Alignment Resident Meeting**

In response to the unique questions and needs of those residents whose property abuts the alignment, the project team held a meeting specific to these individuals. Fliers were hand-delivered to every home that borders the alignment. In addition, the meeting was publicized on the project website and on the project calendar at the community information office.

In total, 57 residents attended the meeting held February 7, 2002, at the Lakewood Cultural Center. An update on the study was provided with an emphasis on video/photographic examples from other cities of how LRT systems can best operate near residential communities.

### **7.5 DRAFT EIS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The Draft EIS was available to the public for a 53-day review and comment period from March 14, 2003 to May 5, 2003. During this timeframe, 183 respondents submitted comments orally or in writing.

#### **7.5.1 Notice of Availability**

A Notice of Availability was issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and published in the Federal Register on March 21, 2003. The Notice of Availability formally communicated that the document was released and dates of the public comment period.

#### **7.5.2 Document Availability**

Copies of the Draft EIS were delivered to 218 individuals representing various municipalities, agencies, businesses, neighborhood groups and community organizations.

The Draft EIS was also available for public review at the following locations:

- Belmar Library
- Denver Main Library
- Edgewater Library
- Golden Library
- Lakewood Library
- Red Rocks Community College Library
- Ross Barnum Branch Library
- Wheat Ridge Library
- West Corridor Community Information Office
- [www.rtdwestcorridor.com](http://www.rtdwestcorridor.com)

Digital copies of the Draft EIS were also stored at four Kinko's and three OfficeMax locations in the corridor. These locations served as a convenient method for individuals wishing to obtain full or partial copies of the Draft EIS for their personal use.

#### **7.5.3 Small Community Briefings**

Small-group meetings continued to be an integral part of the public involvement program during the Draft EIS public comment period. Letters offering to schedule a meeting to review and discuss the Draft EIS were mailed to 145 individuals representing various interested businesses and organizations in the corridor. Each individual was also called in an effort to schedule a briefing or provide them with requested information (i.e. newsletter articles, fact sheets) to share with their organizations.

During the 53-day public comment period, 31 briefings were held with individuals, neighborhood associations, businesses, community organizations and elected officials. Attendance from these briefings totaled 479. **Table 7-3** summarizes these meetings.

**Table 7-3: Draft EIS Review Briefings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
March 7, 2003	Councilman Dennis Gallagher Draft EIS Briefing	1
March 21, 2003	Jefferson Economic Council Draft EIS Briefing	20
March 24, 2003	Senator Linkhart Draft EIS Briefing	1
March 24, 2003	Fairmount Improvement Association Draft EIS Briefing	41
March 24, 2003	Yehle In-Home Draft EIS Briefing	5
March 26, 2003	Jefferson County Policy Council Draft EIS Briefing	15
March 26, 2003	Villa Park Neighborhood Association Draft EIS Briefing	20
March 26, 2003	Draft EIS Q&A with Project Manager	11
April 1, 2003	Sun Valley Community Association Draft EIS Briefing	11
April 2, 2003	Alameda Gateway Draft EIS Briefing	30
April 3, 2003	Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Draft EIS Briefing	2
April 8, 2003	St. Anthony's Hospital Draft EIS Briefing	3
April 8, 2003	Eiber Neighborhood Draft EIS Briefing #1	13
April 9, 2003	Golden Chamber of Commerce Draft EIS Briefing	13
April 9, 2003	Lakewood Senior Citizens Commission Draft EIS Briefing	15
April 9, 2003	Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Draft EIS Briefing	40
April 11, 2003	Jefferson County Association of Realtors Draft EIS Briefing	6
April 12, 2003	Two Creeks Neighborhood Draft EIS Briefing	20
April 14, 2003	Downtown Denver Partnership Draft EIS Briefing	20
April 15, 2003	Barnum Improvement Council Draft EIS Briefing	17
April 16, 2003	Colfax Community Association Draft EIS Briefing	22
April 17, 2003	Eiber Neighborhood Association Draft EIS Briefing #2	11
April 18, 2003	Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Draft EIS Briefing	41
April 21, 2003	Bell Middle School Draft EIS Briefing	5
April 24, 2003	Eiber Neighborhood Association Draft EIS Briefing #3	20
April 28, 2003	Cook In-Home Draft EIS Briefing	2
April 30, 2003	Draft EIS Q&A with Project Manager	7
May 1, 2003	Jefferson County Sertoma Club Draft EIS Briefing	20
May 1, 2003	Lakewood Optimists Club Draft EIS Briefing	13
May 5, 2003	Kiwanis Club of Green Mountain Draft EIS Briefing	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>

#### 7.5.4 Public Hearing

One formal public hearing was held during the Draft EIS public comment period on April 16, 2003. Upon signing in, each of the 155 individuals that attended the public hearing was provided with a folder

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containing a Draft EIS comment form, meeting rules, and general Draft EIS fact sheets. An additional 25 fact sheets providing geographical and topical summaries from the Draft EIS were also made available.

The hearing occurred in two adjoining rooms. The Draft EIS Display Room was open to the public from 1:00 p.m. until the conclusion of the public hearing. This room, staffed with project representatives, offered the public an opportunity to review the Draft EIS, consult large-scale maps and displays and submit Draft EIS comments in writing or orally at a tape recording station.

The Draft EIS Hearing Room was open to the public beginning at 6:00 p.m. Individuals registered to submit oral comments and were assigned to 20-person comment groups on a first come, first served basis. The order in which speakers spoke within each comment group was selected at random.

At 6:45, the project team delivered a 25-minute presentation that summarized the NEPA process and provided a general overview of the Draft EIS. Immediately following the general presentation, the oral comment period began.

Thirty-four individuals submitted oral comments at the public hearing. An additional five individuals recorded oral comments at the tape recording station in the Draft EIS Display Room. The hearing concluded at 9:00 p.m. A full transcript of the hearing, held at 6:30 p.m. on April 16, 2003 at the Sheraton Denver West, is included in the Public Involvement Notebook.

### 7.5.5 Summary of Comments

Between March 14, 2003 and May 5, 2003, 183 respondents submitted comments on the Draft EIS. Individuals were provided with multiple avenues to submit comments. In addition to accepting oral comments at the Draft EIS Public Hearing, individuals wishing to record an oral comment were encouraged to use a tape recorder that was available at the community information office. Written comments were accepted via mail, at the Draft EIS Public Hearing, at the community information office, at the small community briefings and through a form on the project Web site ([www.rtdwestcorridor.com](http://www.rtdwestcorridor.com)).

Five respondents submitted comments via tape recording, 34 respondents submitted oral comments at the public hearing, 47 respondents submitted comments through the project web site, and 97 respondents submitted hard-copy comments.

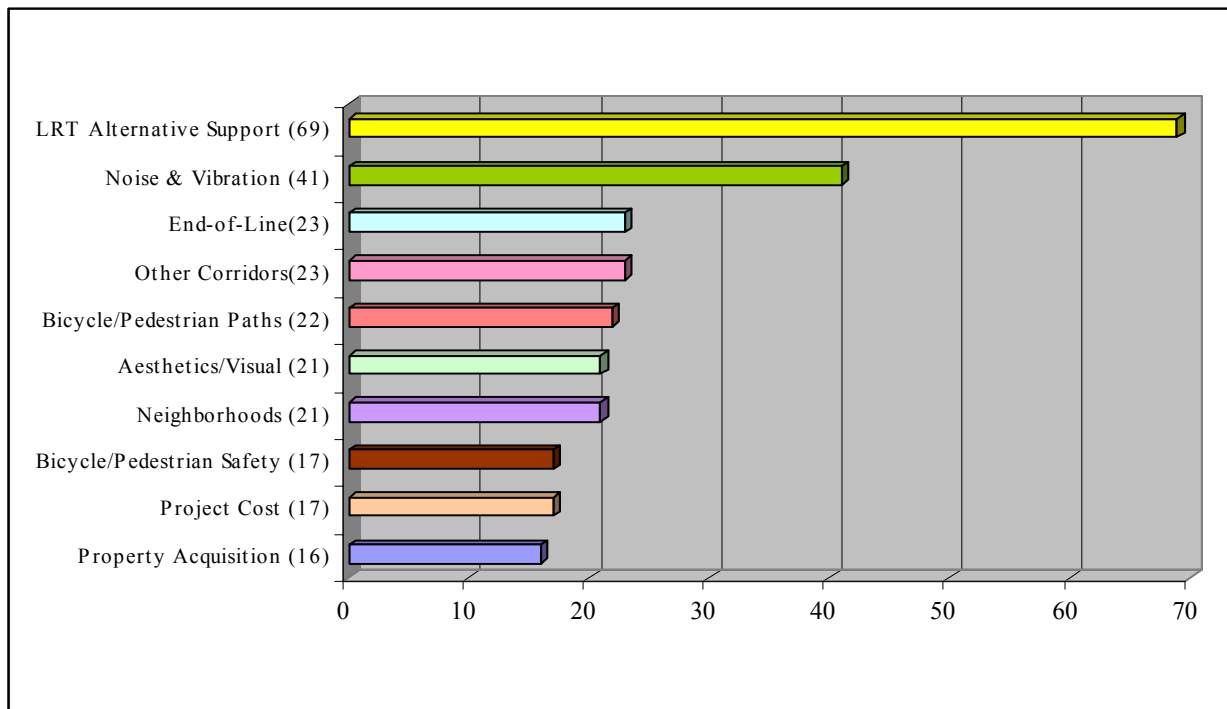
Every response was assigned a response number (1 through 183) and divided into appropriate sub-comments (i.e. 21a – 21d) to be evaluated and responded to. In total, the 183 Draft EIS responses contained 1,186 sub-comments. Appendix C of the Final EIS contains all sub-comments and their corresponding responses. Original copies of all Draft EIS responses are available at the RTD Office.

A database was developed to help identify trends within the responses. The database was comprised of 11 primary categories (Cost, RTD, EIS/PE Process, Land Use, Parking, Traffic Congestion, Transportation, Environmental, Safety and Stations). Each primary category had between three and 22 sub-categories. Every sub-comment was reviewed and assigned to one or more sub-categories.

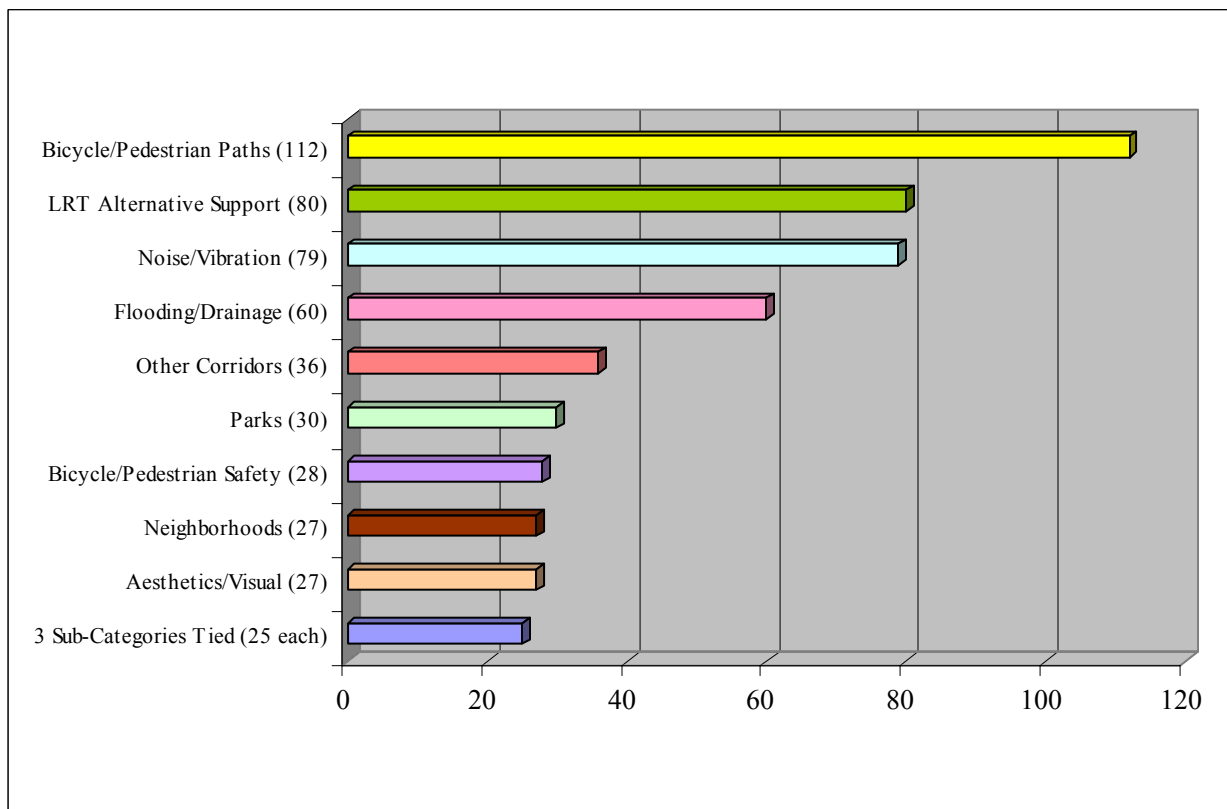
Figure 7-1 lists the top 10 major concerns, questions or issues raised by the 183 respondents. It notes how many separate individuals identified each topic. Figure 7-2, on the other hand, lists how many times the issue was cited. Table 1-4 indicates the number of items each topic was raised out of the approximately 1200 individual sub comments.

Comment summary reports were generated weekly from the database. **Figure 7-1, Figure 7-2 and Table 7-4** were included in the final comment summary report.

**Figure 7-1: Top Ten Draft EIS Comment Sub-Categories by Number of Respondents**



**Figure 7-2: Top Ten Draft EIS Comment Sub-Categories by Number of Sub-Comments**



**Table 7-4: Draft EIS Review Briefings**

Primary Category	Sub-Category	Number of Comments
<b>Transportation</b>		
	Bike/Pedestrian Paths	112
	End-of-Line	25
	Bus Service	21
	Grade Crossings	17
	Ridership	17
	Station Access	6
	Other	32
<b>Transportation Total</b>		<b>230</b>
<b>Environment</b>		
	Flooding and Drainage	60
	Parks	30
	Historic Properties	14
	Energy Usage	12
	Wetlands	12
	Air Quality	9
	Hazardous Materials	8
	Water Resources	8
	Wildlife Habitat	8
	Other	16
<b>Environment Total</b>		<b>169</b>
<b>Community</b>		
	Noise/Vibration	79
	Aesthetics/Visual	27
	Neighborhoods	27
	Transit Oriented Development	7
	Privacy	5
	Schools	4
	Other	4
<b>Community Total</b>		<b>164</b>
<b>RTD</b>		
	General Light Rail Alternative Support	80
	Other Corridors	36
	General No Action Alternative Support	6
	Other Transportation Projects	6
	FasTracks	34
	Other	14
<b>RTD Total</b>		<b>144</b>

Primary Category	Sub-Category	Number of Comments
<b>Stations</b>		
	Garrison Station	21
	Sheridan Station	14
	Federal Station	12
	Red Rocks Station	11
	Auraria West Station	10
	Design	10
	Jefferson County Government Center Station	10
	Knox Station	6
	Location	6
	Wadsworth Station	5
	Oak Station	4
	Federal Center Station	4
	Perry Station	3
	Lamar Station	2
	Amenities	1
	Other	5
<b>Station Total</b>		<b>126</b>
<b>Traffic Congestion</b>		
	6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	13
	Garrison Street	11
	Colfax Avenue	8
	Earl Johnson Road	7
	I-70	6
	Quail Street	6
	Wadsworth Boulevard	5
	Federal Boulevard	4
	Access to Private Property	3
	Kipling Street	3
	Nelson Street	3
	Oak Street	3
	10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	2
	13 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	2
	Holland Street	2
	Sheridan Boulevard	2
	12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	1
	Harlan Street	1

<b>Primary Category</b>	<b>Sub-Category</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>
	Indiana Street	1
	Jefferson County Parkway	1
	Simms Street	1
	Union Boulevard	1
	Other	24
<b>Traffic Congestion Total</b>		<b>110</b>
<b>Land Use</b>		
	Property Acquisition	25
	Economic Development	21
	Right-of-Way	20
	Property Values	13
	Zoning	8
	Other	22
<b>Land Use Total</b>		<b>109</b>
<b>Safety</b>		
	Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety	28
	Crossings	22
	Station Safety	3
	Rider Safety	1
	Other	1
<b>Safety Total</b>		<b>85</b>
<b>EIS/PE Process</b>		
	NEPA Study Process	22
	Community Involvement	18
	Schedule/Timeline	8
	Decision Making	7
	Other	16
<b>EIS/PE Process Total</b>		<b>71</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
	Project Cost	25
	Funding Sources	2
	Other	16
<b>Cost Total</b>		<b>43</b>
<b>Parking</b>		
	Problems with Parking in Neighborhoods	13
	park-n-Ride Locations	12
	Insufficient Parking at park-n-Rides	6
	Access to park-n-Rides	1

<b>Primary Category</b>	<b>Sub-Category</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>
	Additional park-n-Rides	1
	Other	3
<b>Parking Total</b>		<b>36</b>
<b>Other Issues</b>		
	General Text Changes	96
	General Graphic Changes	39
	Mills Mall	8
	Project Web Site	2
<b>Other Issues Total</b>		<b>164</b>
<b>Grand Total Number of Comments</b>		<b>629</b>

### 7.6 CONTINUITY – FUTURE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Prior to construction, RTD has committed as mitigation, to form an urban design task force, similar to the community-based Station Enhancement Groups. During final design, the task force will work with engineers and designers to ensure the community is involved in appropriate decisions.