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## **6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

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FHWA and CDOT are committed to involving the public and other agencies throughout the Valley Highway EIS process. The success of the Valley Highway Project hinges upon communication and cooperation between FHWA, CDOT, and the local community. This includes involvement of federal, state, and local governmental officials, regional transportation planning entities, citizen advisory groups, community groups, civic and professional organizations, businesses, residents, and low-income and minority populations in the EIS process. The public involvement process includes providing information, timely public notice, access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing participation.

This chapter describes objectives and elements of the public involvement process, as well as specific activities conducted to date with the public and federal, state, and local agencies and government representatives. It also highlights special public outreach efforts to low-income and minority populations in the project area. It includes a discussion of further opportunity for public input to comment on the project and the Final EIS as part of the public hearing that will be held.

### **6.1 Objectives**

Public involvement objectives include:

- Provide a mechanism for public perspectives, needs, and ideas to be incorporated into the planning process
- Develop the public's understanding of the problems and opportunities related to the Valley Highway EIS
- Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input
- Develop a consensus on project alternatives

### **6.2 Elements of Program**

A multi-tiered public involvement approach was used to reach out to a variety of groups located in the project area with differing needs and perspectives. The public involvement process consisted of three general areas of coordination: public, agency, and special outreach to low-income or minority populations.

Public outreach efforts emphasized using public meetings, as well as presentations to local neighborhood associations, business groups and non-profit organizations, to disseminate project information and provide a mechanism to incorporate the public's ideas, needs, and concerns into the EIS process. Agency coordination focused on involving federal, state, and local governmental agencies in developing the technical requirements of the EIS, and in providing technical expertise and assisting in development of the EIS. Environmental justice outreach efforts included identifying and contacting local organizations involved with low-income populations and minority populations, disseminating project information to local leaders and residents, and diversifying public outreach efforts to meet the specific needs of low-income populations and minority populations.



In addition, the following program elements were used as primary means of information dissemination that were not linked to any specific audience.

### 6.2.1 Notice of Intent

A notice of intent, advising the public that an EIS would be prepared for the Valley Highway Project, appeared in the *Federal Register* on July 23, 2002. The Notice of Intent formally communicated the commencement of the public involvement process associated with the Valley Highway EIS.

### 6.2.2 Project Contacts

Key project staff were made available to answer questions from the public via phone, fax, email, and in person. The three main project contacts were:

Mr. Tony Gross  
Senior Project Manager  
CDOT Region 6  
2000 South Holly St.  
Denver, CO 80222  
Tel: (303) 972-9112  
Fax: (303) 972-9114  
e-mail: [tony.gross@dot.state.co.us](mailto:tony.gross@dot.state.co.us)

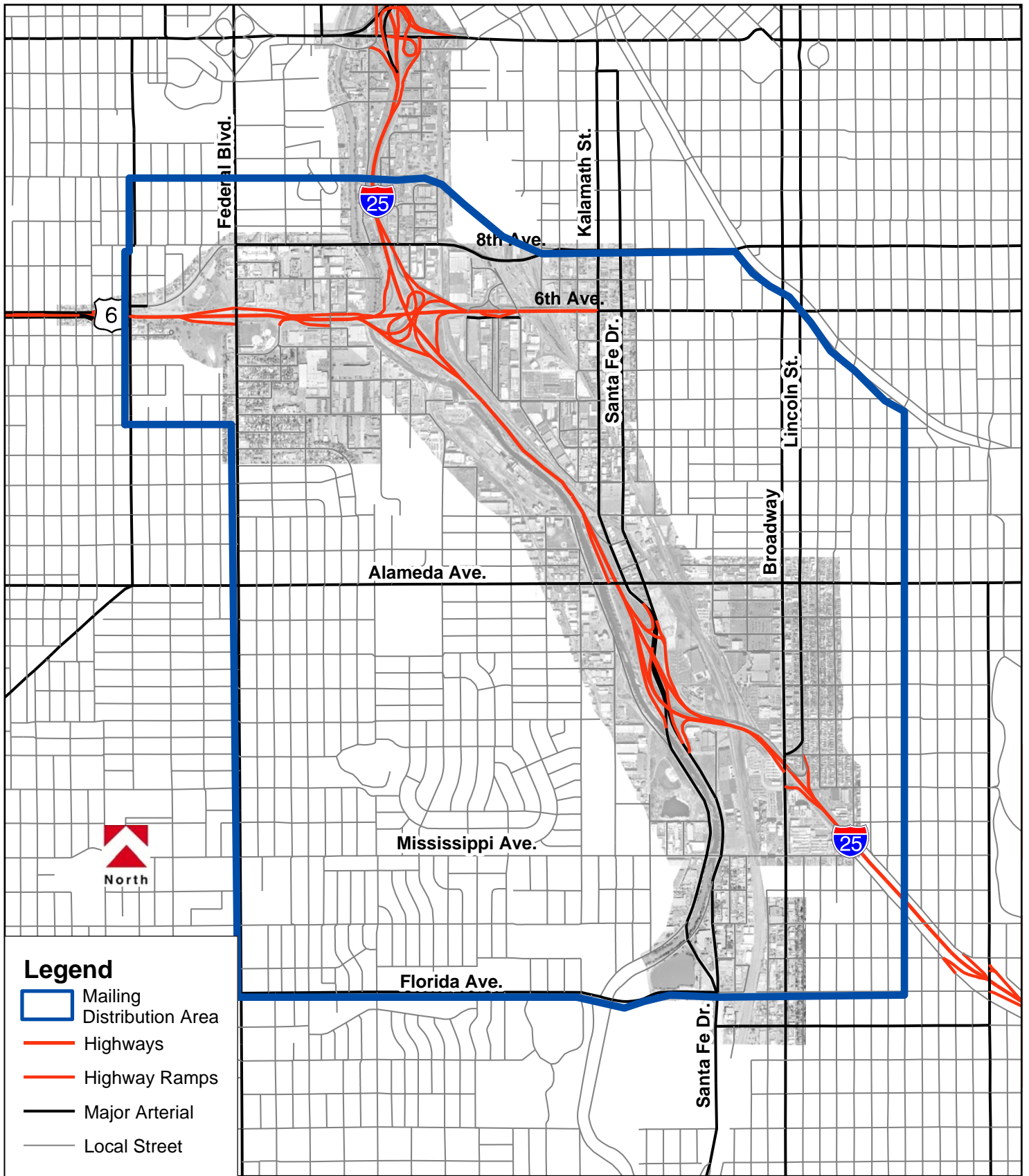
Mr. Dean Bradley  
Project Manager  
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
6300 S. Syracuse Way, Suite 600  
Centennial, CO 80111  
Tel: (303) 721-1440  
Fax: (303) 721-0832  
e-mail: [dean.bradley@fhueng.com](mailto:dean.bradley@fhueng.com)

Mr. Chris Horn  
Senior Operations Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 180  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Tel: (720) 963-3000  
Fax: (720) 963-3001  
e-mail: [chris.horn@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:chris.horn@fhwa.dot.gov)

### 6.2.3 Mailing List Development

Approximately 20,000 residences and businesses in the neighborhoods surrounding the project area received project newsletters and postcard meeting notices. Project newsletters and postcard notices inviting local residents and businesses to public meetings were sent via a mass mailing to the project area, which included the neighborhoods of Athmar Park, Baker, Barnum, Godsman, Lincoln Park, Overland, Platt Park, Sun Valley, Valverde, Villa Park, and West Washington Park in the City and County of Denver. **Figure 6-1** depicts the boundaries of the mailing distribution area. The area targeted for mass mailing is located approximately north of Florida Avenue, west of Washington Street, east of Federal Boulevard, and south of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in south Denver. In the area along US 6 west of I-25, the mailing area extends north to 10th Avenue and west to Knox Court.

In addition, a mailing list of over 700 individuals was compiled. An initial mailing list was prepared during the EIS scoping process. The initial list included the name, group association, mailing address, phone number, and email address of representatives from local neighborhood associations; business groups; and federal, state, and local governmental agencies. Over the course of the public involvement process, the mailing list was updated with the contact information of public meeting attendees, interested individuals, religious groups, non-profit organizations, and other individuals not identified on the initial mailing list. The mailing list was used to disseminate project information, such as meeting minutes and notification of public meetings.



Valley Highway, 02-069, 10/29/2004

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

## Mailing Distribution Area

Figure 6-1



## 6.2.4 Project Website

A project website was developed ([www.valleyhighway.com](http://www.valleyhighway.com)) in December 2002 to provide the public up-to-date information on the Valley Highway Project. Information presented on the website was designed to avoid technical jargon, wherever possible, and communicate a plain and understandable message. A link to a multi-lingual translator was provided on the website. The website was updated on a monthly or as needed basis; individuals could sign up for the Citizens Online database to receive email notices whenever the website was updated. The website provided electronic access to:

- A project description and map
- Public involvement activities, including public meeting comment summaries and Citizen Working Group meeting minutes
- Environmental resources
- Project element and system alternatives, including screened alternatives and the screening process
- EIS chapters in a downloadable format
- Broadway viaduct construction information
- Frequently asked questions
- A glossary of terms
- Newsletters and news releases
- Meeting notices
- Contact information
- Public comments

The project website provided interested members of the public with an opportunity to comment on the project, ask questions, and request project-related information through a comment feedback form. Comments were received at the website via the comment feedback form and from emails sent to the webmaster.

## 6.2.5 News Releases to Local Media

Periodic news releases were prepared and provided to the local media before public meetings. The list of local media is summarized in **Table 6-1**. News releases were provided in September 2002, December 2002, July 2003, January 2004, October 2004, and May 2005. A copy of each news release is included in **Appendix B**, *Public Coordination*.

**Table 6-1 Local Media Contact List**

<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Local Media Resource</b>
Newspaper	<i>Denver Post</i>
Newspaper	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i>
Newspaper	<i>Daily Journal and Colorado Construction</i>
Newspaper	<i>Rocky Mountain Construction</i>
Newspaper	<i>Denver Business Journal</i>
Newspaper	<i>Arvada Sentinel</i>
Newspaper	<i>Golden Transcript</i>
Newspaper	<i>Brighton Standard Blade</i>
Newspaper	<i>Commerce City Sentinel Express</i>
Newspaper	<i>Fort Lupton Press</i>
Newspaper	<i>Centennial Citizen</i>
Newspaper	<i>Englewood Herald</i>
Newspaper	<i>Highlands Ranch Herald</i>
Newspaper	<i>The Voice</i>
Newspaper	<i>North Denver Tribune</i>
Newspaper	<i>Westminster Window</i>
Newspaper	<i>Northglenn/Thornton Sentinel</i>
Newspaper	<i>Westsider</i>
Newspaper	<i>Erie Review</i>
Newspaper	<i>Lafayette News</i>
Newspaper	<i>Louisville Times</i>
Newspaper	<i>Front Range News</i>
Newspaper	<i>Aurora Sentinel</i>
Newspaper	<i>Broomfield Enterprise</i>
Newspaper	<i>Castle Rock News Press</i>
Newspaper	<i>Englewood Centennial Journal</i>
Newspaper	<i>Evergreen Canyon Courier</i>
Newspaper	<i>Greenwood Village The Villager</i>
Newspaper	<i>Littleton Independent</i>
Newspaper	<i>Loveland Daily Report</i>
Newspaper	<i>El Hispano</i>
Newspaper	<i>Urban Spectrum</i>
Newspaper	<i>Hispania News</i>
Newspaper	<i>Intermountain Jewish News</i>
Newspaper	<i>Korea Times Denver</i>
Newspaper	<i>Korean Denver News</i>
Newspaper	<i>Colorado Chinese News</i>
Television	KUSA-TV (NBC)
Television	KCNC-TV (CBS)
Television	KMGH-TV (ABC)
Television	KDVR-TV (FOX)
Television	KWGN-TV (WB)
Television	KCEC-TV (Univision)
Television	FTFD-TV
Television	KMAS-TV (Telemundo)
Television	KRMT-TV
Radio	KHOW-AM 630
Radio	KOA-AM 850
Radio	KMXA-AM 1090
Radio	KJMN-FM 92.1
Radio	KUVO-FM 89.3

## 6.2.6 Bilingual Project Phone Hotline

The project team established and promoted a bilingual Spanish/English project phone hotline [(720) 489-7923], which was put in place in September 2002 and made available throughout the public involvement process. The bilingual project phone hotline provided individuals and groups with the opportunity to leave a message for the project team. All messages were responded to within 24 hours. Individuals were offered a one-on-one meeting with a project team member if additional information was required. Forty-three phone calls to the project hotline were received as of June 2006. Two of the phone calls were received from Spanish speakers.

## 6.2.7 Project Newsletters

Project newsletters were mailed to approximately 20,000 residences and businesses in the neighborhoods encompassing the project area. Newsletters were developed and distributed in August 2002, July 2003, November 2003, May 2004, May 2005, and November 2005, and served to:

- Introduce the project
- Inform the public of the progress of the project
- Provide contact information for project-related questions
- Advertise public meetings
- Discuss results of the Citizen Working Groups

The July 2003, November 2003, May 2004, May 2005, and November 2005 project newsletters were bilingual (Spanish and English).

## 6.3 Agency Input

The Lead Agency for the Valley Highway EIS is FHWA, and CDOT is the Applicant Agency. Upon request of the Lead Agency, any other federal, state, or local agency may become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agencies have technical insight into many of the transportation-related problems for the Valley Highway and special expertise with respect to specific environmental issues and jurisdiction by law. Four cooperating agencies were identified for the Valley Highway EIS: the City and County of Denver, the FRA, FTA, and RTD.

Responsibilities of the coordinating agencies include:

- Develop information and perform environmental analysis, as needed
- Provide staff for lead agency requests for support
- Participate in the transportation planning process and in the EIS scoping process
- Attend the Public Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group meetings (see **Sections 6.3.2** and **6.3.3**),
- Review and comment on environmental documentation





In addition to the cooperating agencies, resource agencies were identified. Resource agencies have specific technical expertise and regulatory oversight on various environmental issues and potential impacts associated with the project. Resource agencies for the Valley Highway EIS include: the USACE, UDFCD, Public Utilities Commission (PUC), EPA, USFWS, CDPHE, CDOW, DRCOG, and the SHPO.

Responsibilities of the resource agencies include:

- Provide technical expertise, as needed
- Participate in the meetings and working groups, as needed
- Review and provide comments on relevant EIS documentation

Agency involvement activities ranged from one-on-one meetings with agency officials to a series of meetings with local, state, and federal agency representatives. **Table 6-2** summarizes local, state, and federal agency and government involvement activities conducted as part of the Valley Highway EIS process.

**Table 6-2 Agency and Local Government Involvement Activities**

Date	Group
Jan 22, 2002	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Ramona Martinez
May 6, 2002	FHWA/CDOT Pre-Scoping Kick-off Meeting
Jun 27, 2002	FHWA/CDOT Technical Scoping Meeting
Aug 21, 2002	Cooperating/Resource Agencies Scoping Meeting
Sep 10, 2002	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Debbie Ortega
Sep 17, 2002	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Ramona Martinez
Oct 10, 2002	FHWA/CDOT Scoping Debriefing Meeting
Oct 10, 2002	Technical Working Group Meeting
Oct 24, 2002	Technical Working Group Broadway Workshop
Oct 30, 2002	Technical Working Group Railroad Workshop
Nov 7, 2002	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Nov 8, 2002	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Nov 13, 2002	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Nov 14, 2002	Technical Working Group Meeting
Nov 14, 2002	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Nov 15, 2002	Cherokee Development Work Session
Nov 21, 2002	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Nov 25, 2002	Meeting with City and County Of Denver Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie
Dec 2, 2002	Technical Working Group Meeting
Dec 5, 2002	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Dec 11, 2002	Technical Working Group
Dec 12, 2002	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Dec 19, 2002	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Jan 2, 2003	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Jan 9, 2003	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Jan 10, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Jan 16, 2003	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Jan 16, 2003	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Jan 23, 2003	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Jan 30, 2003	Cherokee Denver Transportation Task Force Meeting
Feb 6, 2003	FHWA/CDOT/EPA Coordination Meeting
Feb 12, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting

**Table 6-2 Agency and Local Government Involvement Activities**  
(continued)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>
Feb 14, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Feb 25, 2003	CDOT, RTD, City and County of Denver, Cherokee Denver LLC, and Gates Properties Facilitation Meeting
Mar 2003	City and County of Denver Stormwater Management Meeting
Mar 2003	CDOT, T-REX, and Cherokee Denver LLC Coordination Meeting
Mar 12, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Mar 14, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Apr 9, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Apr 10, 2003	CDOT and City and County of Denver Stormwater Management Meeting
May 5, 2003	Denver Parks Meeting
May 6, 2003	Colorado State Parks Meeting
May 14, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Jun 11, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Jun 13, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Jul 9, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Jul 10, 2003	CDOT Stormwater Meeting
Jul 11, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Jul 30, 2003	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Rosemary Rodriguez
Aug 7, 2003	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Aug 8, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Aug 18, 2003	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Judy Montero
Aug 26, 2003	CDOT Cultural Resources Meeting
Sep 4, 2003	CDOT/CDPHE Air Quality Meeting
Sep 10, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Sep 12, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Sep 15, 2003	CDOT and CDPHE Hazardous Materials Meeting
Sep 26, 2003	City and County of Denver EIS Coordination Meeting
Sep 29, 2003	Cherokee Denver LLC Hazardous Materials Meeting
Oct 2, 2003	Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting
Oct 7, 2003	CDOT/Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Cultural Resources Meeting
Oct 8, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Oct 10, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Oct 16, 2003	Transportation Commission Meeting
Oct 21, 2003	CDOT Hazardous Materials Meeting
Oct 22, 2003	CDOT Drainage and Floodplain Issues Meeting
Oct 23, 2003	City and County of Denver Hazardous Materials Meeting
Oct 29, 2003	RTD Hazardous Materials Meeting
Nov 3, 2003	CDPHE Hazardous Materials Meeting
Nov 12, 2003	Technical Working Group Meeting
Nov 14, 2003	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Nov 14, 2003	City and County of Denver Drainage Meeting
Nov 17, 2003	City and County of Denver Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee Representative Meeting
Dec 1, 2003	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Dec 12, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Jan 6, 2004	CDOT, CDPHE, and City and County of Denver Hazardous Materials Meeting
Jan 9, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Jan 14, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Feb 13, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Feb 25, 2004	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Mar 10, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Mar 12, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting



**Table 6-2 Agency and Local Government Involvement Activities**  
(continued)

Date	Group
Apr 13, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Apr 15, 2004	Transportation Commission Meeting
May 12, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
May 14, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
May 26, 2004	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
June 11, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
July 9, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
July 17, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Aug 11, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Aug 13, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Aug 16, 2004	FHWA, CDOT, and EPA Project Status Meeting
Aug 23, 2004	CDOT and CDPHE Hazardous Materials Meeting
Aug 25, 2004	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Sep 8, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Sep 17, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Oct 8, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Oct 13, 2004	Technical Working Group Meeting
Nov 12, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Dec 10, 2004	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Jan 12, 2005	Technical Working Group Meeting
Jan 14, 2005	RTD/CDOT Regional Coordination Meeting
Mar 9, 2005	Technical Working Group Meeting
Mar 11, 2005	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Judy Montero
Apr 13, 2005	Technical Working Group
Apr 15, 2005	Policy Advisory Committee
May 11, 2005	Technical Working Group
Jun 9, 2005	Tour of project area with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Judy Montero
Jul 13, 2005	Technical Working Group
Aug 3, 2005	FHWA/CDOT Preferred Alternative
Aug 10, 2005	Technical Working Group
Oct 12, 2005	Technical Working Group
Nov 9, 2005	Technical Working Group
Jan 11, 2006	Technical Working Group
Feb 8, 2006	Technical Working Group
Mar 9, 2006	Technical Working Group
Apr 12, 2006	Technical Working Group
May 10, 2006	Technical Working Group
May 31, 2006	CDOT, City and County of Denver, and RTD I-25/Broadway Coordination Meeting
May 31, 2006	CDOT and City and County of Denver Barnum East Park Coordination Meeting
August 3, 2006	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Rosemary Rodriguez
August 15, 2006	Meeting with Julie Connor Aide to City and County of Denver Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie
August 16, 2006	Technical Working Group Meeting
September 6, 2006	Meeting with City and County of Denver Councilwoman Judy Montero
October 11, 2006	CDOT And City and County of Denver Barnum East Park Coordination Meeting

### 6.3.1 Scoping Meetings

A series of agency scoping meetings were held in conjunction with the Valley Highway EIS. These meetings were held to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine the scope of the issues to be addressed in the Valley Highway EIS. The meetings were designed to share project information and collect comments, questions, and feedback to facilitate design of the project scope.

Four agency scoping meetings were conducted as follows:

- An FHWA/CDOT Pre-Scoping Meeting was held on May 6, 2002
- An FHWA/CDOT Scoping Meeting was held on June 27, 2002
- A Cooperating and Resource Agencies Scoping Meeting was held on August 21, 2002
- An FHWA/CDOT/EPA Coordination Meeting was held on February 6, 2003

The meetings were conducted as part of the EIS scoping process to determine the project approach and receive comments from FHWA, CDOT, the cooperating agencies, and resource agencies. The Cooperating and Resource Agencies Scoping Meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in the Denver Technological Center, and 43 technical and management representatives from 14 agencies attended the meeting. During the meeting, the Valley Highway EIS project team introduced the Valley Highway EIS, summarized the NEPA process, discussed significant and other issues, and determined the ability of the agencies to provide specific technical support. Additional meetings, including one-on-one meetings with federal, state, and local government representatives, were conducted as necessary.

### 6.3.2 Policy Advisory Committee

A policy advisory committee was established to provide the project team with different perspectives on major issues related to the proposed action and to enhance the communication with selected audiences. The policy advisory committee was comprised of local government officials, governmental agencies, and non-profit groups and met on a quarterly basis. Policy advisory committee meetings are included in **Table 6-2**.

### 6.3.3 Technical Working Group

A technical working group was established to provide monthly reviews and discussions of the alternatives, community concerns, and environmental issues and to participate in reviews to facilitate the development of the EIS document. The technical working group included representatives of local government, public sector agencies from the project area, CDOT and FHWA. Technical working group members possessed technical expertise in the areas of engineering, environment, planning, utilities, transportation (highway and railroad), and transit. The technical working group meetings are summarized in **Table 6-2**.

### 6.3.4 Transportation Task Force Meetings

A series of meetings were held to discuss the Broadway/I-25 interchange area and expected redevelopment activities. Meeting attendees generally included representatives from Cherokee Denver LLC, CDOT, RTD, City and County of Denver, and Gates Properties. The objectives of the meetings were to identify expected redevelopment activities, determine expected traffic volumes, and provide for coordination between the project team, cooperating agencies, Cherokee Denver LLC, and Gates Properties. These meetings are summarized in **Table 6-2**.



### 6.3.5 Local Government Official Meetings

Meetings were held with the City and County of Denver council members representing the project area. The project team met with Councilwoman Ramona Martinez, Debbie Ortega, and Kathleen MacKenzie in January, September, and November 2002, respectively. Additional meetings were held with Councilwoman Rosemary Rodriguez in July 2003, and Councilwoman Montero in August 2003 and April 2004. Councilwoman Judy Montero and Rosemary Rodriguez replaced Ramona Martinez and Debbie Ortega following the 2003 elections. The objective of the meetings was to inform the councilwomen of the project and answer any related questions. These meetings are summarized in **Table 6-2**.

## 6.4 Public Input

Public involvement activities ranged from door-to-door visits of businesses to presentations at neighborhood associations and business groups, public meetings, and one-on-one meetings. The subsections below describe various public involvement activities conducted before release of the Draft EIS.

### 6.4.1 Public Meetings

Public meetings were held at key points during the EIS process. Project newsletters and/or postcard notices inviting local residents and businesses to the public meetings were sent via a mass mailing to the project area. These meetings were also advertised in the neighborhood association newsletters; through news releases to local media; in bilingual flyers (Spanish and English) distributed at local churches, schools and recreation centers; and via email notices. Meeting attendance ranged from approximately 40 to 100 individuals.

Each of the meetings was held with an open-house format, followed by an open-forum period conducted with the aide of a meeting facilitator. Spanish translation was available at each meeting. The meetings were designed to provide the public with information on the project and the EIS process, to receive feedback, and to establish a relationship with the local communities. At each meeting, Valley Highway project team members gave a presentation that included slides, maps, and graphics.

Following each presentation, a question-and-answer session was conducted by a bilingual facilitator. Comments and concerns were written on a flip chart to verify they were accurately interpreted and to encourage additional discussion. In addition, comments and concerns were recorded in the meeting minutes. A comment summary was prepared with CDOT responses and disseminated using the project mailing list.

At each public meeting, comment feedback and/or evaluation forms were provided to solicit comments. Additional comments were collected during the question-and-answer session portion of each public meeting. Written and verbal comments received at each public meeting were compiled, a written response from CDOT was prepared for each comment, and the comment summaries and a cover letter were and posted on the project website. A summary of the input received is included in **Section 6.4.6**.

Five types of public meetings were held ten times before the public hearing for the Draft EIS. The meetings included the following:



#### **6.4.1.1 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER 2002**

Public scoping meetings were held on September 24, 25, and 26, 2002. The meetings were held at three different locations throughout the project area:

- Cameron Church, 1600 South Pearl Street (West Washington Park area)
- Valverde Elementary School, 2030 West Alameda Avenue (Valverde area)
- Del Pueblo Elementary School, 750 Galapago Street (Baker, West Washington Park, Lincoln Park areas)

These meetings were held to introduce the project, obtain scoping input, describe the NEPA process, and introduce the project team.

#### **6.4.1.2 ELEMENT ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETINGS – DECEMBER 2002**

Element alternatives public meetings were held on December 12 and 17, 2002. The meetings were held in the project area at the Lighting Services Building (241 South Cherokee Street) at the northwestern corner of Alameda Avenue and Cherokee Street. These meetings were held to present the element design alternatives for the I-25 mainline; Broadway, Santa Fe Drive, and Alameda Avenue interchanges; and the Santa Fe Drive/Kalamath Street grade separation with the Consolidated Main Line railroad. The element alternatives are presented and discussed in **Chapter 2 Alternatives**.

#### **6.4.1.3 SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETINGS – JULY 2003**

System alternatives public meetings were held on July 23 and 29, 2003 at the Lighting Services Building (241 South Cherokee Street). These meetings were held to present four “build” system alternatives identified from the elements alternatives screening process and the No Action Alternative. Each of the system alternatives and the No Action Alternative are discussed in **Chapter 2 Alternatives**.

#### **6.4.1.4 COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PUBLIC MEETINGS/JANUARY 2004**

Community and environmental resources public meetings were held on January 22 and 28, 2004 at the Lighting Services Building (241 South Cherokee Street). These meetings were held to present the three system alternatives that remained following the screening process, as well as the No Action Alternative, existing conditions (community and environmental resources), and potential impacts. System Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 and the No Action Alternative are presented in **Chapter 2 Alternatives**.

#### **6.4.1.5 INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

In May 2005, the Draft EIS was made available to the public for a 45-day public comment period. An informational meeting was held on May 19, 2005 at the Baker Middle School (574 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue), approximately two weeks prior to the public hearing. The meeting was held to update the public on the project prior to the public hearing and to solicit comments and feedback on the project.

## 6.4.2 Citizen Working Group Meetings

During the EIS scoping process, five main environmental issues of concern were identified through detailed discussion and public input:

- Aesthetics / Urban Design
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Mobility
- Construction Impacts
- Noise
- South Platte River Corridor

Citizen working groups were established for each of these concerns, and volunteers for each citizen working group were solicited during the public meetings. The purpose of each citizen working group was to inform the public of the specific issue, discuss how the issue would be impacted by the Valley Highway Project, and present a forum for the public to ask questions, express concerns, and present additional ideas. The information from the each citizen working group was included into the decision-making process for the system alternatives. **Table 6-3** summarizes feedback and comments received during the citizen working group meetings. Meeting minutes from each citizen working group meeting were posted on the project website. The citizen working group meetings were held at a variety of locations in the Athmar Park, Baker, Platte Park, and West Washington Park neighborhoods. Meeting locations were limited due to available facilities.

**Table 6-3 Summary of Citizen Working Group Meetings**

Citizen Working Group	Objective	Meeting Date and Locations	Issues/Concerns
Aesthetics and Urban Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish urban design goals for the project that take into consideration the context of the corridor within the larger I-25 corridor, the existing community character and goals, and long-term maintenance obligations</li> </ul>	<p>September 15, 2003 Washington Street Community Center 809 S. Washington St.</p> <p>December 15, 2003 Washington Street Community Center 809 S. Washington St.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the point of view of highway users and adjacent neighborhoods</li> <li>• Provide urban design elements for a sense of neighborhood identity and to help with orientation</li> <li>• Consider lighting effects on neighborhoods (light trespass, safety, views of sunsets, night sky)</li> <li>• Consider flyover aesthetics from all points of view</li> </ul>
Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians through and around the project corridor</li> <li>• Review current and planned bicycle/pedestrian facilities</li> <li>• Provide recommendations to the project team on how to integrate the facilities into the project</li> </ul>	<p>June 12, 2003 CDOT Broadway Viaduct Construction Trailer 753 S. Lincoln St.</p> <p>December 8, 2003 CDOT Broadway Viaduct Construction Trailer 753 S. Lincoln St.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve east to west mobility, which is difficult through the project area due to the railroads, I-25, and the South Platte River</li> <li>• Improve access to the RTD park-n-Ride and I-25/Broadway</li> <li>• Improve safety along Alameda</li> </ul>

**Table 6-3 Summary of Citizen Working Group Meetings (continued)**

Citizen Working Group	Objective	Meeting Date and Locations	Issues/Concerns
Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	April 8, 2004 Athmar Park Library 1055 Tejon St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct the Bayaud bicycle/pedestrian bridge as an early action item to mitigate bicycle/pedestrian impacts during Alameda reconstruction</li> <li>• Do not recommend underpasses due to safety concerns</li> </ul>
Construction Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss potential construction impacts associated with the system alternatives, including such topics as detours, noise, dust generation, and construction staging</li> </ul>	September 24, 2003 Athmar Park Library 1055 Tejon St.  December 10, 2003 Athmar Park Library 1055 Tejon St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold the Design/Build Contractor accountable for compliance with CDPHE regulations and provide CDOT with the right to shut the project down for non-compliance</li> <li>• Coordinate with impacted residents/businesses prior to construction to discuss traffic control</li> <li>• Consider neighborhood impacts when deciding on construction phasing</li> </ul>
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the social and analytical elements of noise</li> <li>• Discuss potential noise mitigation techniques</li> <li>• Provide recommendations on how the mitigation techniques could be integrated into the project</li> </ul>	January 16 and 21, 2003 Demonstration Tours  September 26, 2003 Washington Street Community Center 809 S. Washington St.  December 16, 2003 Washington Street Community Center 809 S. Washington St.  January 27, 2004 Washington Street Community Center 809 S. Washington St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review pavement types to reduce noise</li> <li>• Evaluate multiple simultaneous noise mitigation measures</li> <li>• Coordinate public participation during demolition after a contractor has been selected</li> </ul>
South Platte River Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the recreational and water body character of the South Platte River, including designated uses, water quality, and history</li> <li>• Review impacts to the river</li> <li>• Offer input as to mitigation measures</li> </ul>	September 16, 2003 La Familia Recreation Center 65 S. Elati St.  December 4, 2003 Cameron Church 1600 S. Pearl St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the South Platte River</li> <li>• Replace the sump at Alameda and I-25</li> <li>• Provide enhancements to the South Platte River Trail, such as improved access, where possible</li> </ul>

Note: Additional details are provided in the meeting minutes, which are included in **Appendix B, Public Coordination**.

### 6.4.3 Local Neighborhood Association and Business Group Meetings

Project staff also met with individual residential and commercial property owners and local neighborhood associations and business groups to introduce the project and to discuss concerns and issues related to the system alternatives and the NEPA process.

**Table 6-4** lists the local neighborhood associations and business groups that were identified and contacted. Neighborhoods with a majority low-income and minority populations that were contacted are discussed in **Section 6.5 Special Outreach to Low-Income and Minority Populations.**

*Table 6-4 Local Neighborhood Associations and Business Groups*

Association/Group	Contact
Antique Row Association	Peter Schmidt
Broadway Area Revitalization District	Joan Loughridge
Broadway Partnership MDLDC	Tony Gengaro
Old South Pearl Street Association	Mark Shanstrom
Overland Neighborhood Association	Jack Unruch
Platt Park Neighborhood Association	Cathy Bird
Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment District (NEWSED)	Pauline Johnson
Sumner Business Group	Bruce Peterson

Each of the neighborhood associations and business groups were contacted by the project team. The Valley Highway Project was introduced and a meeting requested. A project team member met with a neighborhood association or business group representative or attended a meeting, presented the Valley Highway Project, received feedback on the alternatives, and answered questions. **Table 6-5** summarizes local neighborhood and business public involvement activities. If a meeting could not be scheduled, an information packet was provided and the group was included on the mailing list. Sixteen meetings with local neighborhood associations and business groups were attended between January 2002 and June 2006.

### 6.4.4 Neighborhood Association Newsletter Articles

Periodically (see **Table 6-5**), articles were prepared and submitted to various neighborhood associations for inclusion in their monthly or quarterly newsletter. The articles provided information on the progress of the project and contained announcements of public meetings. A copy of neighborhood association newsletter articles that were obtained are included in **Appendix B, Public Coordination.**

### 6.4.5 Door-to-Door Business Visits

Due to the number of businesses located in the project area and the lack of organized business groups, particularly in the concentrated industrialized/warehouse areas, door-to-door visits were conducted. During the door-to-door visits, project information was presented and additional meetings scheduled, as needed. Door-to-door visits were conducted in the following areas:

- Alameda merchants (along Alameda Avenue from Broadway to Federal Boulevard)
- Baker industrial district area (west of Santa Fe Drive, north of Alameda Avenue, south of US 6, and east of I-25)



- Mississippi industrial triangle area (south of Alameda Avenue, west of the South Platte River, north of Mississippi, and east of Lipan)
- Valverde warehouse / industrial area (north of Alameda Avenue, south of US 6, and west of I-25)
- US 6 / Bryant Street area businesses

During the door-to-door visits, the project team introduced the project and discussed the alternatives, and received feedback. Additional information about door-to-door activities is summarized in **Table 6-5**.

**Table 6-5 Neighborhood and Local Businesses Public Involvement Activities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Public Involvement Activity/Group(s)</b>
Jan 9, 2002	Door-to-door visits with South Broadway businesses
Feb 19, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Santa Fe Drive / Kalamath Street businesses
Feb 21, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Lipan Triangle businesses
Mar 11, 2002	Door-to-door visits with South Broadway businesses
Mar 13, 2002	Door-to-door visits with South Broadway businesses
Mar 18, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Santa Fe Drive / Alameda Avenue businesses
Mar 19, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Alameda Avenue businesses
Mar 20, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Lipan Triangle businesses
Mar 22, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Santa Fe Drive / Alameda Avenue businesses
Mar 27, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Valverde neighborhood businesses
Apr 18, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Kalamath Street and 4th and 5th Avenue businesses
May 2, 2002	Door-to-door visits with South Broadway businesses
May 30, 2002	Phone conversation with Performance Radiator representative
Jun 24, 2002	West Washington Park Neighborhood Association representatives meeting
Jun 24, 2002	Overland Neighborhood Association representatives meeting
Jul 13, 2002	Conference of Southwest Denver Neighborhood Associations meeting
Jul 23, 2002	<i>Federal Register</i> Notice of Intent
Aug 5, 2002	Platt Park Neighborhood Association representatives meeting
Aug 2002	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses / residences in the project area
Sep 2002	Project phone hotline set up
Sep 12, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Alameda Avenue businesses
Sep 17, 2002	Sumner Business Group representatives meeting
Sep 23, 2002	News release
Sep 23, 2002	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i> newspaper article
Sep 24, 2002	Public Scoping Meeting – Iowa Avenue and Pearl Street
Sep 25, 2002	Public Scoping Meeting – Alameda Avenue and Tejon Street
Sep 26, 2002	Public Scoping Meeting – 8th Avenue and Galapago Street
Oct 28, 2004	Phone conversation with Jerry's Amoco owner
Nov 2002	<i>Platt Park Post</i> (neighborhood association newsletter) article
Nov 11, 2002	Phone conversation with US Welding representative
Dec 2002	Project postcard meeting notice mailed to 20,000 businesses / residences in project area
Dec 3, 2002	CDOT right-of-way meeting for potentially affected businesses
Dec 4, 2002	News release
Dec 4, 2002	Old South Pearl Street representative meeting
Dec 9, 2002	Website ( <a href="http://www.valleyhighway.com">www.valleyhighway.com</a> ) launched
Dec 10, 2002	CDOT right-of-way meeting for potentially affected residents
Dec 12, 2002	Element Alternatives Public Meeting – Lighting Services Bldg, 241 South Cherokee Street
Dec 16, 2002	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i> newspaper article
Dec 17, 2002	Element Alternatives Public Meeting – Lighting Services Bldg, 241 South Cherokee Street
Jan 2003	<i>Platt Park Post</i> (neighborhood association newsletter) article
Jan 16, 2003	Noise Citizen Working Group demonstration tour



**Table 6-5 Neighborhood and Local Businesses Public Involvement Activities (continued)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Public Involvement Activity/Group(s)</b>
Jan 21, 2003	Noise Citizen Working Group demonstration tour
Jan 29, 2003	Sumner Group meeting
Mar 22, 2003	West Washington Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Apr 23, 2003	Platt Park Neighborhood Association meeting
May 2003	<i>Platt Park Post</i> (neighborhood association newsletter) article
May 6, 2003	Meeting with Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway company representatives
May 20, 2003	Sumner Group meeting
May 30, 2003	Phone conversation with Hurricane Drain owner
Jun 9, 2003	Website updated
Jun 12, 2003	Bicycle/Pedestrian Mobility Citizen Working Group meeting
Jun 30, 2003	Website updated
Jul 2003	<i>Washington Park The Profile</i> newspaper article
Jul 2003	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses/residences in the project area
Jul 14, 2003	Website updated
Jul 16, 2003	Door-to-door visits with US 6 and Bryant Street businesses
Jul 17, 2003	Door-to-door visits with US 6, Bryant Street, and Federal Boulevard businesses
Jul 22, 2003	News release
Jul 23, 2003	System Alternatives Public Meeting
Jul 28, 2003	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i> newspaper article
Jul 29, 2003	System Alternatives Public Meeting
Sep 1, 2003	Website updated
Sep 12, 2003	One-on-one meeting with local business owner
Sep 15, 2003	Urban Design/Aesthetics Citizen Working Group meeting
Sep 15, 2003	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i> newspaper article
Sep 16, 2003	South Platte River Corridor Citizen Working Group meeting
Sep 19, 2003	Website updated
Sep 24, 2003	Construction Impacts Citizen Working Group meeting
Sep 26, 2003	Noise Citizen Working Group meeting
Oct 2, 2003	US 6 and Bryant Street businesses workshop
Oct 8, 2003	West Washington Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Oct 22, 2003	Broadway Area Revitalization District (BARD) meeting
Nov 12, 2003	Website updated
Nov 2003	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses / residences in the project area
Dec 4, 2003	Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment District (NEWSSED) meeting
Dec 4, 2003	South Platte River Corridor Citizen Working Group meeting
Dec 4, 2003	Website updated
Dec 8, 2003	Bicycle/Pedestrian Mobility Citizen Working Group meeting
Dec 9, 2003	Platt Park People's Neighborhood Association meeting
Dec 10, 2003	Construction Impacts Citizen Working Group meeting
Dec 15, 2003	Aesthetics/Urban Design Citizen Working Group meeting
Dec 16, 2003	Noise Citizen Working Group meeting
Dec 17, 2003	Website updated
Jan 2004	Project postcard meeting notices mailed to 20,000 businesses / residences in project area
Jan 6, 2004	Provided bilingual (Spanish/ English) flyers to NEWSSED for distribution to members/clientele
Jan 9, 2004	Website updated
Jan 16, 2004	News release
Jan 22, 2004	Community and Environmental Resources Public Meeting
Jan 27, 2004	Noise Citizen Working Group meeting
Jan 28, 2004	Community and Environmental Resources Public Meeting
Feb 4, 2004	Phone conversation with Broadway Partnership representative
May 2004	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses/residences in the project area
Apr 1, 2004	Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment District (NEWSSED) meeting
Apr 28, 2004	Bicycle/Pedestrian Mobility Citizen Working Group meeting

**Table 6-5 Neighborhood and Local Businesses Public Involvement Activities (continued)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Public Involvement Activity/Group(s)</b>
May 2004	Website Updated
Jun 15, 2004	Website Updated
July 8, 2004	Website Updated
July 13, 2004	Community meeting on nuisance noise
Oct 5, 2004	Phone conversation with Wine Storage owner
Oct 11, 2004	Letter on project status distributed to the project mailing list
Oct 13-15, 2004	Website updated
Dec 6, 2004	Website updated
Mar 4, 2004	Website updated
April 2005	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses/residences in the project area
Apr 18, 2005	Website updated
Apr 28, 2005	Website updated
Apr 29, 2005	Federal Register Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS
May 6, 2005	Website updated
May 16, 2005	Website updated
May 19, 2005	Draft EIS Informational Meeting
May 23, 2005	Website updated
Jun 2, 2005	Draft EIS Public Hearing
Jun 29-30, '05	Website updated
Aug 10, 2005	Website updated
Oct 6, 2005	Website updated
Nov, 2005	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses/residences in project area
Dec 6, 2005	Website updated
Jan 13, 2006	Website updated
Feb 28, 2006	Website updated
Mar 1, 2006	Website updated
Mar 8, 2006	Website updated
Sept 9, 2006	Inter-neighborhood cooperation meeting
Sept 13, 2006	West University Community Association meeting
Sept 15, 2006	Website updated
Sept 18, 2006	West Washington Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Sept 27, 2006	Sumner Group meeting
Sept 28, 2006	US 6 and Bryant Street businesses workshop
Oct 10, 2006	Platt Park People's Association meeting
Oct 25, 2006	Barnum East Park users meeting
Nov, 2006	Project newsletter mailed to 20,000 businesses/residences in the project area

### 6.4.6 Public Input Obtained

Public comments that were identified during the public meetings prior to release of the Draft EIS included:

- Expressed concern over safety along the I-25 mainline; at the Broadway, Santa Fe Drive, and Alameda Avenue interchanges; and along US 6 at the Bryant Street interchange
- Expressed concern over impacts to property and property acquisition for right-of-way
- Expressed concern over traffic congestion and the impact of property redevelopment in the Broadway/I-25 interchange area on traffic flow and volumes
- Supported closure of the Bryant Street/US 6 interchange

- Expressed concern over business access to US 6 and I-25 if the Bryant Street interchange is closed
- Supported grade separation of the Consolidated Main Line railroad tracks and Santa Fe Drive and Kalamath Street to improve safety and traffic congestion
- Supported improved bicycle/pedestrian mobility along Alameda Avenue, access to the Broadway LRT station, and the Bayaud Avenue bicycle/pedestrian bridge
- Expressed concerns over highway noise, lights, and local view sheds
- Expressed concern over impacts to local businesses and neighborhoods during construction
- Supported a grade separation from southbound Broadway to southbound I-25
- Expressed concern over the use of a design-build process for final design and project construction
- Wanted to know when the project would begin and if funding was available

In addition to the general public comments received, **Table 6-6** identifies comments received from neighborhood associations, business groups, and non-profit organizations that were met with prior to release of this EIS.

**Table 6-6 Summary of Comments Received from Neighborhood Associations, Business Groups, and Non-Profits**

Group/Individual	Issues/Concerns
Athmar Park Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise issues related to I-25 and Santa Fe Drive/I-25 interchange</li> <li>• East/west connectivity along Alameda Avenue</li> <li>• Safety at the Bryant Street/US 6 interchange</li> <li>• Supported improvements to the Santa Fe Drive/I-25 interchange</li> </ul>
Atlantis Community Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility and mobility</li> </ul>
Baker Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise and light pollution issues related to I-25</li> <li>• Maintain view across I-25 toward the mountains</li> <li>• Pedestrian/bicycle accessibility to the Alameda LRT station</li> <li>• Supported movement of northbound I-25 on-ramp to the west side of Broadway</li> <li>• Access to the South Platte River and the South Platte River Trail</li> </ul>
Barnum Improvement Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety at the Bryant Street/US 6 interchange</li> <li>• Project impacts at the Bryant Street/US 6 Avenue interchange</li> <li>• Excess traffic in neighborhood</li> </ul>
Bayaud Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrian mobility and safety</li> </ul>
Broadway Area Revitalization District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic along Broadway</li> <li>• Aesthetics and urban design of the corridor</li> <li>• Coordination between CDOT and Cherokee Denver LLC</li> </ul>
Columbine Homes (The Bridge Project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East/west connectivity along Alameda Avenue</li> <li>• Safety along Alameda Avenue</li> </ul>
Denver Indian Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project funding</li> <li>• Project schedule</li> </ul>
Godsman Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety at the Santa Fe Drive/I-25 interchange</li> </ul>
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project funding</li> <li>• Project schedule</li> </ul>
La Alma/Lincoln Park Planning Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the business area northeast of the US 6/I-25 interchange</li> <li>• Improvements to I-25 north of US 6</li> <li>• Traffic along Santa Fe Drive and Kalamath Street north of US 6</li> </ul>

**Table 6-6 Summary of Comments Received from Neighborhood Associations, Business Groups, and Non-Profits (continued)**

Group/Individual	Issues/Concerns
Mi Casa Resource Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project funding</li> <li>• Project schedule</li> <li>• Employment opportunities and involvement</li> </ul>
Old South Pearl Street Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to local businesses during construction</li> <li>• Project schedule</li> <li>• Excess traffic in neighborhood</li> </ul>
Overland Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excess traffic in neighborhood</li> <li>• Noise issues related to I-25</li> <li>• Supported improvements to the Santa Fe Drive/I-25 interchange</li> </ul>
Platt Park Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise issues related to the Broadway viaduct</li> <li>• Excess traffic in neighborhood</li> <li>• Pedestrian/bicycle accessibility to the Broadway LRT station</li> <li>• Safety underneath the Broadway viaduct</li> </ul>
Poder Advocacy Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the railroad grade separation at Santa Fe Drive and Kalamath Street</li> <li>• Excess traffic in neighborhood</li> </ul>
Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corp. (NEWSED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased traffic and speed along Santa Fe Drive with railroad grade separation</li> <li>• Parking along Santa Fe Drive</li> <li>• Right-of-way acquisition and displacements along Santa Fe Drive and Kalamath Street</li> </ul>
Shalom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee safety and traffic along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue</li> <li>• Improved pedestrian mobility along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue</li> </ul>
Sumner Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property access</li> <li>• Mobility of trucks</li> </ul>
Valverde Neighborhood Association/Metropolitan Organization for the People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise issues related to I-25</li> <li>• East/west connectivity along Alameda Avenue</li> </ul>
Villa Park Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety at the Bryant Street/US 6 interchange</li> <li>• Project impacts at the Bryant Street/US 6 interchange</li> <li>• Impacts to Barnum Park, Barnum Park North, and Barnum Park East near the Federal Boulevard/US 6 interchange</li> <li>• Traffic congestion at the US 6/I-25 interchange</li> </ul>
West Washington Park Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise issues related to the Broadway viaduct</li> <li>• Excess traffic in neighborhood</li> <li>• Pedestrian/bicycle accessibility to the Broadway LRT station</li> <li>• Supported movement of northbound I-25 on-ramp to the west side of Broadway</li> <li>• Supported tunnel from southbound Broadway to southbound I-25</li> <li>• Supported System Alternative 2</li> </ul>

## 6.5 Special Outreach to Low-Income and Minority Populations

Low-income and minority populations were identified through 2000 US Census Bureau data and through local community representatives. A discussion on environmental justice is included in **Section 4.1, Socio-Economics and Community**. Outreach activities were conducted to ensure that everyone living in the project area, including low-income or minority populations, received information related to the project and were afforded the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns related to the project. Special outreach activities to low-income and minority populations included:

- News releases to community and ethnic media (see **Section 6.2.5**)
- Provision of project information in Spanish and English, as necessary



- Access to translation at public meetings, through the project hotline, and on the project website (see **Section 6.2.4, 6.2.6, and 6.4.1**)
- Dissemination of project information through community institutions and organizations, such as local schools, churches, recreation centers, and local organizations (neighborhood associations, community groups, and non-profit organizations)
- Meetings with neighborhood associations, community groups, and non-profit organizations providing services for low-income and minority populations
- One-on-one meetings with local residents and individuals
- An information booth at the El Grito de la Independencia festival

### 6.5.1 Project Information Dissemination

Based on the demographic and employment characteristics of the project area (see **Section 4.1 Socio-Economics and Community**), the following neighborhoods were identified with minority and low-income populations and were consequently targeted for special outreach: Athmar Park, Baker, Barnum, Lincoln Park, Valverde, Villa Park, and Sun Valley. Hispanics are the largest minority group in the project area (See **Table 4.1-1, Section 4.1**).

To facilitate use by non-English speakers, a multi-lingual translator was provided on the Valley Highway project website. The multi-lingual translator could translate the website into thirteen different languages, including Spanish, Chinese, and Russian. In addition to the website, a bilingual (Spanish/English) project phone hotline was established. Project information, such as newsletters, flyers, and postcards, was provided in Spanish and English. Spanish translation was also made available at the public meetings (see **Section 6.4.1**). Vietnamese translation was also provided at the project meeting held at Columbine Homes, a Denver Housing Authority public housing site.

News releases were prepared and provided to media targeting minority populations, such as *El Hispano*, *Urban Spectrum*, *Hispania News*, *Korea Times Denver*, *Korean Denver News*, *Colorado Chinese News*, *Univision*, and *Telemundo*. **Table 6-1** identifies the list of local media that news releases were provided to. A newspaper article on the Valley Highway Project was published in the *La Voz* and a television news story was aired on *Univision* in December 2002.

Bilingual newsletters and flyers (Spanish/English) were distributed through local schools, churches, recreation centers, and local organizations. The following community institutions and organizations distributed project information:

- Fairmount Elementary, Greenlee Elementary School, Barnum Elementary, Del Pueblo Elementary School, Baker Middle School, Valverde Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary, and Rishel Middle School
- St. Anthony of Padua, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Presentation of Our Lady, St. Augustine Orthodox, Valverde Park Presbyterian, Rocky Mountain Church of God, and Church of Latter Day Saints
- La Alma and La Familia Recreation Centers
- Mi Casa Resource Center, Centro Bienestar, the Bridge Project (Columbine Homes), NEWSED, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Asian Chamber of Commerce, Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce



## 6.5.2 Local Neighborhood Association and Non-Profit Organization Meetings

Project staff met with local neighborhood associations and non-profit organizations to introduce the project and to discuss concerns and issues related to the system alternatives and the NEPA process. Project staff contacted each community representative to inform them of the project and to request the opportunity to conduct a small, informal briefing with an organization representative or in a group setting. **Table 6-7** summarizes the local community representatives contacted.

These briefings allowed the project team the opportunity to provide detailed project information in a personalized manner to a large number of individuals. Meetings were attended both by local community group leaders and residents. Information was also provided to the community representatives for dissemination. **Table 6-8** summarizes the special outreach activities to low-income and minority populations in the project area.

Project staff met with the Athmar Park, Baker, Barnum, Valverde, Villa Park, and Poder Advocacy Council neighborhood associations or their representative. Specific comments from these meetings and groups are summarized in **Table 6-6**. The meeting with the Valverde Neighborhood Association representative was also attended by a representative from the Metropolitan Organization for the People.

Additional meetings were held with several non-profit organizations in the project area: Atlantis Community, Bayaud Industries, Shalom, Platte River Industries, The Bridge Project at Columbine Homes, and Making Connections Denver.

**Table 6-7 Local Community Representatives Contacted**

Association/Group	Contact
Alameda Square Businesses	Khahn Vu
Asian Chamber of Commerce	John Wright
Athmar Park Neighborhood Association	Karen Cuthbertson
Atlantis Community, Inc.	Tim Thornton
Barnum Improvement Council	Howard Kumpf
Bayaud Industries	David Henniger
The Bridge Project (Columbine Homes – Denver Public Housing)	Jeanne Orrben
Catalus Resources/Making Connections/Westside Visions Coalition	Kit Williams
Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs	Karen Wilde-Rogers
Denver Buddhist Cultural Society	Sue Ong Moyers
Denver Indian Center	Colleen Brave/Carrie Howell
Denver's Neighborhood Safe Haven	Arturo Rodriguez
Florence Crittenton Center	Silvia Milanese
Godsman Neighborhood Association	Betty Stewart
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Diedra Garcia
Historic Baker Neighborhood Association	Al Habercorn
La Familia Recreation Center	Sid Shuck
La Alma/Lincoln Park Planning Group	Peter Hynes
La Alma Recreation Center	Dave Rodriguez
Metropolitan Organization for the People	Mateos Alvarez
Mi Casa	Brenda Lopez
Northwest Neighbor's Coalition	Ray Defa
Platte River Industries	Robert Smith
Poder Advocacy Council	Carlos Guerra

**Table 6-7 Local Community Representatives Contacted (continued)**

Association/Group	Contact
Presentation of Our Lady	Father Vincent
Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce	Paul Kabotie
St. Anthony of Padua	Theresa Martinez
St. Augustine Orthodox Church	Father Michael
St. Joseph's Redemptorist Church/Centro Bienstar	Father Steve
St. Rose of Lima	Rev. Patrick Dolan
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	Nancy Schaffner
Shalom	Arnold Kover
Sun Valley Community Association	Paul Bobian
Valverde Neighborhood Association	Leticia Otero
Villa Park Neighborhood Association	Rosa Howard
Western Indian Chamber of Commerce	Ben Sherman

**Table 6-8 Special Outreach Activities for Low-Income or Minority Populations**

Date	Group/Activity
May 3, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Alameda Avenue businesses (with Spanish interpreter)
Jun 24, 2002	Godsman Neighborhood Association representative meeting
Jul 10, 2002	Door-to-door visits with Alameda Square businesses
Jul 11, 2002	Athmar Park Neighborhood Association representative meeting
Aug 8, 2002	Baker Historic Neighborhood Association representative meeting
Aug 8, 2002	Villa Park Neighborhood Association representative meeting
Aug 8, 2002	Barnum Improvement Council representative meeting
Sep 8, 2003	Provided information packet to Western Indian Chamber representative
Sep 22, 2003	Provided information packet to Denver Indian Center representative
Sep 22, 2003	Provided information packet to Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce representative
Sep 23, 2002	News release
Nov 19, 2002	Native American Conference
Nov 16, 2002	Athmar Park Neighborhood Association annual meeting
Dec 2, 2002	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to elementary schools
Dec 2, 2002	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to churches
Dec 4, 2002	News release
Dec 11, 2002	Univision KCEC-TV news story
Dec 11, 2002	<i>La Voz</i> newspaper article
Jul 2003	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to St. Anthony of Padua, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Presentation of Our Lady, and St. Augustine Orthodox Church.
Jul 2003	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/ English) flyers to La Alma Recreation Center and La Familia Recreation Center
Jul 2003	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to Mi Casa Resource Center
Jul 2003	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to businesses along US 6, Bryant Street, and Federal Boulevard
Jul 22, 2003	News release
Jul 24, 2003	Mi Casa Resource Center presentation
Jul 31, 2003	One-on-one meeting with area resident
Sep 13, 2003	<i>El Grito de la Independencia</i> Festival
Sep 16, 2003	Barnum Improvement Council meeting
Sep 24, 2003	Making Connections – Denver meeting
Oct 2, 2003	Valverde Neighborhood Association representative and Metropolitan Organization for the People representative meeting
Oct 22, 2003	Villa Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Oct 24, 2003	Provided information packet to Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs Executive Director
Oct 27, 2003	One-on-One meeting with local resident

**Table 6-8 Special Outreach Activities for Low-Income and Minority Populations (continued)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group/Activity</b>
Nov 4, 2003	Shalom meeting
Nov 4, 2003	Columbine Housing (Bridge Project) planning meeting
Nov 11, 2003	Baker Neighborhood Association meeting
Nov 15, 2003	Athmar Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Nov 18, 2003	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce meeting
Nov 20, 2003	Poder Advocacy Council meeting
Dec 8, 2003	Mi Casa Resource Center managers meeting
Dec 11, 2003	Columbine Housing meeting
Jan 2004	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to St. Anthony of Padua, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Presentation of Our Lady, and St. Joseph's Churches
Jan 2004	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to La Alma Recreation Center and La Familia Recreation Center
Jan 6, 2004	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to Making Connections - Denver
Jan 7, 2004	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to the Asian Chamber of Commerce
Jan 12, 2004	Delivered bilingual (Spanish/English) flyers to Columbine Homes (Denver Housing Authority)
Jan 16, 2004	News release
Jan 19, 2004	Phone conversation with Platte River Industries representative
Jan 23, 2004	Bayaud Industries meeting
Jan 23, 2004	Atlantis Community, Inc. meeting
Feb 1, 2004	Athmar Park newsletter article
Feb 19, 2004	One-on-one meeting with area resident
Mar 2004	Delivered flyers to the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce for distribution at the Denver March Powwow
Mar 30, 2004	Phone conversation with Hispanic Chamber of Commerce representative
Apr 6, 2004	La Alma/Lincoln Park Community Planning Group representative meeting
Apr 27, 2004	Denver Indian Center Public Meeting
May 25, 2004	Athmar Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Aug 12, 2004	Phone conversation on project status with Atlantis representative
Aug 12, 2004	Phone conversation on project status with Shalom representative
Aug 22, 2004	Phone conversation on project status with Platte River Industries representative
Aug 22, 2004	Phone conversation on project status with Bayaud Industries representative
Aug 22, 2004	Phone conversation on project status with Mi Casa Resource Center representative
Aug 22, 2004	Phone conversation on project status with Columbine Homes/The Bridge Project representative
April, 2005	Delivered bilingual (English/Spanish) flyers to St. Anthony de Padua, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Presentation of our Lady, and St. Joseph's Church
May 6, 2005	Delivered bilingual (English/Spanish) flyers to church of Latter Day Saints, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, St. Joseph's Church, St. Rose de Lima, Mi Casa Resource Center, and Centro Bienestar
May 9, 2005	Delivered bilingual (English/Spanish) flyers to Fairmount Elementary, Baker Middle School, Barnum Elementary, Rishel Middle School, Valverde Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary, Del Pueblo elementary, St. Anthony de Padua, Valverde Park Presbyterian Church, Platte Park Senior Center, La Alma Recreation Center, La Familia Recreation Center, Cameron United Methodist Church, and St. Augustine
May 11, 2005	Delivered bilingual (English/Spanish) flyers to Presbyterian of Our Lady, NEWSED, Bridge Project/Columbine Homes
May 13, 2005	Delivered bilingual (English/Spanish) flyers to Rocky Mountain Church of God
Sept 12, 2006	Concerned Citizens for Barnum meeting
Sept 16 and 17, 2006	<i>El Grito de la Independeneia Festival</i>
Sept 26, 2006	Athmar Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Sept 26, 2006	La Alma/Lincoln Park Planning Group meeting
Sept 27, 2006	Villa Park Neighborhood Association meeting
Oct 10, 2006	Baker Historic Neighborhood Association meeting

### 6.5.3 Local Festival

Project team members staffed a booth at the *El Grito de la Independencia* Festival (Cry for Independence) on September 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2003 and September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2006, along Santa Fe Drive. The *El Grito de la Independencia* Festival is an annual gathering celebrating Mexico's independence from colonial Spain, which is sponsored by NEWSED. Approximately 75,000 primarily Spanish-speakers attended the festival in 2004. The objective was to disseminate project information and discuss the project with local residents. A Spanish translator was available to facilitate discussions on the project. Interested individuals were included on the mailing list and Citizen Working Groups.

### 6.6 Release of Draft EIS

A Notice of Availability for the I-25 Valley Highway Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the *Federal Register* on April 29, 2005. The Notice of Availability included the date and location of the public hearing. This information was also disseminated through a mass mailing to the project area, flyers, and news releases (see **Tables 6-2, 6-5, and 6-8**).

The Draft EIS was made available to the public on the project website at [www.valleyhighway.com](http://www.valleyhighway.com) and at the following locations:

- FHWA, 12300 W. Dakota Avenue, Lakewood
- CDOT, 2000 S. Holly Street, Denver
- Denver Public Library, Central Library, 10 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway, Denver
- Denver Public Library, Ross-Barnum Branch, 3570 W. First Avenue, Denver
- Denver Public Library, Byers Branch, 675 Santa Fe Drive, Denver
- Denver Public Library, Ross-Broadway Branch, 33. E. Bayaud, Avenue, Denver
- Denver Public Library, Athmar Park Branch, 1055 S. Tejon Street, Denver
- Denver Public Library, Decker Branch, 501 S. Logan Street, Denver

The 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS ended on June 14, 2005. During the comment period, an informational meeting was held on May 19, 2005, and the public hearing was held on June 2, 2005. Twenty-seven individuals attended the informational meeting, and twenty-six individuals attended the public hearing. The comments were received, as follows:

- Ten individuals provided verbal comments during the informational meeting, and one written comment was received.
- Seven individuals provided verbal comments during the public hearing, and two written comments were received.
- Six comments were received via the website during the comment period.
- U.S. Welding, Rio Grande Company, Cherokee Denver, West Washington Park Neighborhood Association, and Robert Shedd provided comment letters.
- Comments were also received from SHPO, USFWS, City and County of Denver, EPA, RTD, DRCOG, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) indicated that they had no comments.



The agency and public comments received and responses to the comments, including the court reports transcripts of oral comments received at the informational meeting and the public hearing, are included in **Appendix A Agency Coordination** and **Appendix B Public Coordination**.

### ***6.7 Coordination Subsequent to Release of Final EIS***

The availability of this Final EIS and the date and location of the public hearing will be announced at least 15 days in advance of the hearing. This information will be disseminated through a mass mailing to the project area, flyers, and news releases. At the public hearing, the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on the project and the Final EIS. Written comments will be accepted for 30 days following availability and will be included in the official record.



