

Appendix A

Public and
Agency Coordination

MDT and FHWA have coordinated with members of the public and various regulatory agencies with the intention that these activities could be built upon in future NEPA/MEPA environmental analyses. Public and agency coordination activities are summarized in the following sections.

Agency Coordination

State and federal regulatory agencies were asked to participate in the Alternatives Analysis process in order to foster communication, identify and resolve issues, and provide timely and constructive comments on draft work products. Letters were sent to the following regional, state, and federal resource agencies as a notification that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with MDT's Highways Division, propose to reconstruct a portion of MT 69.

- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
- City of Boulder

Through these letters, MDT requested each agency's participation in identifying any concerns that would need to be addressed through the environmental review process.

An initial Agency Coordination Meeting was scheduled with the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction, interest, or expertise on issues within the study corridor. This meeting was held on July 30, 2008 and consisted of a presentation of the Purpose and Need for the proposed project, the alternatives to be considered, and the proposed methodologies to be used for the environmental analyses. Representatives were present from DEQ, FWP, USACE, USFWS, EPA, BLM, and Jefferson County. DNRC and the City of Boulder declined to participate in the project. Minutes from this meeting are included in Appendix G.

A second Agency Coordination Meeting was held on December 17, 2008. The intent of this meeting was to discuss agency concerns regarding the Alternatives Analysis and the Biological Resource Report (BRR) documents. Representatives from DEQ, FWP, USFWS, EPA, BLM, and Jefferson County attended the meeting. Minutes from this meeting are included in Appendix G.

A third Agency Coordination Meeting was held on November 20, 2009 to discuss the revised Alternatives Analysis document. Representatives from USFWS, USACE, FWP, and DEQ attended the meeting.

Public Involvement

A public information meeting was held at the Jefferson High School on June 1, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting format included a formal presentation and a question/comment period. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and gather public opinion regarding issues and concerns related to transportation in the MT 69 corridor. Two alignment alternatives were presented at the public meeting. One alignment option involved rehabilitation / reconstruction and widening of the existing MT 69 alignment, and one involved construction of a new alignment on the east side of the Boulder River following an existing Jefferson County road as much as practicable. Aerial photographs illustrating the proposed centerline of the existing alignment and the eastern alignment alternatives were displayed around the room. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting and the majority of those in attendance expressed their disapproval of any new alignment east of the river. As an alternative to a new alignment, public meeting attendees requested consideration of a reduction in the posted speed limit and/or greater speed enforcement within the corridor; construction of pullout locations to aid in speed enforcement; and a No Build option. A transcript of the meeting is included in Appendix B.

The meeting location was accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Contact information was obtained from all attendees by having a dedicated greeter who welcomed citizens to the event, ensured sign-in, distributed a project newsletter, and provided a brief project overview. Participants were encouraged to provide written comments via a comment sheet. Comments received at and following the meeting are included in Appendix B.

Members of the public were also invited to comment on the Purpose and Need for the project during a public comment period from September 10, 2008 to October 10, 2008. A newspaper advertisement was published in the Boulder Monitor announcing the availability of the Purpose and Need statement on the project web site and inviting public comments. No written public comments were received during the public comment period.
