
3.0 AGENCY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Chapter Summary

The ongoing Public Involvement Program (PI) developed for the Downtown/Natomas/Airport (DNA) Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA) is one of the largest continuous programs of this type experienced in the Sacramento region. Over 30 groups from the public and private sectors have been participants since the study was initiated in late 2001. These groups have benefited from over 100 meetings held to discuss transit improvement alternatives for the Corridor.

Both technical review and citizens' review panels (advisory groups) have been deeply involved in the screening of the alternatives under review here. The participation of these groups has been essential to completion of the work of the technical consultants leading to this AA Report.

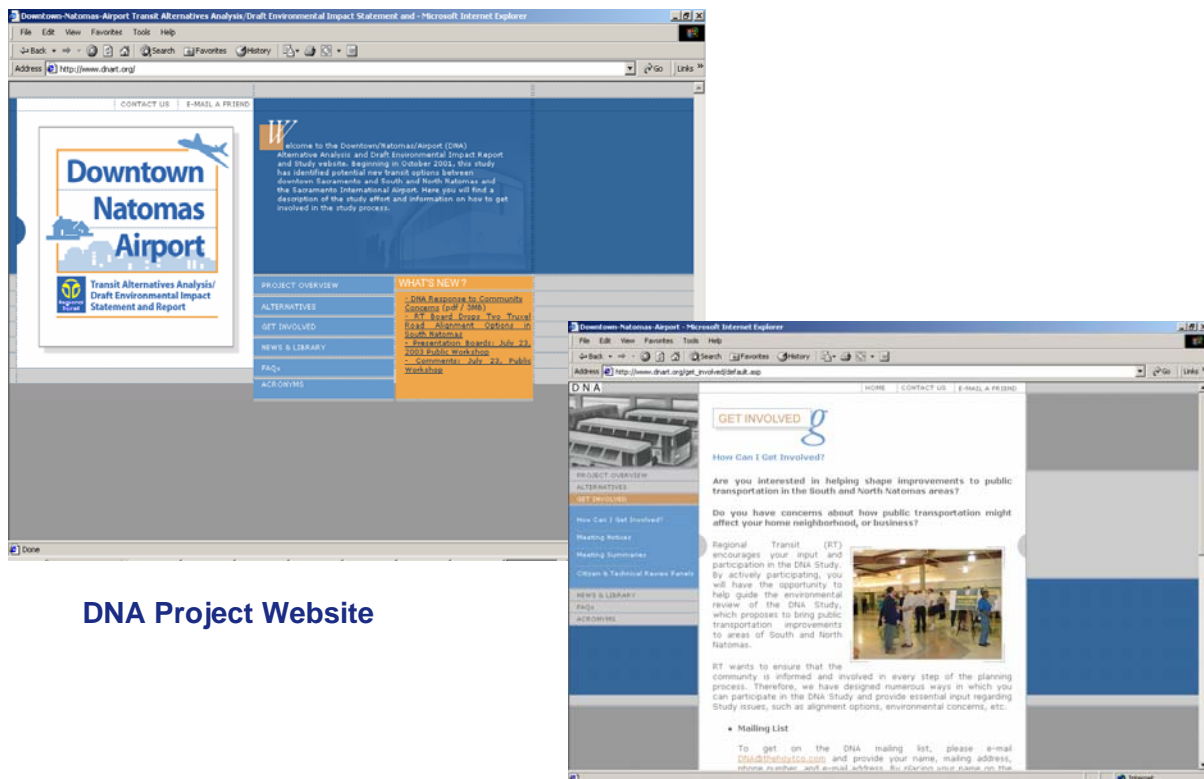
The extensive PI being implemented for the DNA Corridor AA study has been developed to receive public input from all affected citizens and stakeholders into the alternatives selection process.

Significant Program Activities

The PI Program included the following notable activities:

- Three EIR/S scoping meetings and public open houses (one televised).
- Meetings with citizens, homeowner associations, environmental groups, and business organizations.
- Regular study program updates at publicly noticed meetings (televised on cable TV) to the RT Board of Directors.
- Presentations to the Sacramento City Council, City of Sacramento Planning Commission, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento County Parks Commission, and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA).
- Technical Review and Citizens Review Panel (TRP and CRP) meetings.
- Distribution of newsletters, media releases, public notices and other materials to a study mailing list of over 7,000 individuals and organizations.
- Design and operation of a study website (www.DNArt.org).
- Maintenance of a study information "hotline".
- Attendance at community events (Natomas Community Festival).
- Participation in cable television broadcasts.
- Placement of paid ads in local newspapers and interior ad cards on RT buses.
- A program of public outreach through local schools (8,500 students).
- Door-to-door canvassing of businesses in the Truxel Corridor.

Through these activities the study team was able to obtain valuable, regional input throughout the study program decision-making process. Through September 2003, over 100 presentations/briefings have been made by the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) to nearly 60 various public agencies, community organizations, and groups of locally elected officials.



DNA Project Website

3.1 Technical and Citizens Review Panels

RT, with assistance from its consultant team, established a Technical Review Panel (TRP) consisting of approximately 40 members representing various local, state, and federal agencies. The TRP meetings were conducted as working sessions, allowing members to actively participate with team members and RT Staff in discussing study issues. The TRP membership included the following organizations:

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- City of Sacramento (Planning, Public Works, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs)
- County of Sacramento (Planning)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Natomas Unified School District
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
- Sacramento County Airport System
- Sacramento County Regional Parks and Recreation
- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD)

A Citizens Review Panel (CRP) also was established, representing a cross-section of community and other organizations with an interest in transportation issues in the study Corridor. This group of over 50 individuals also provided valuable review and comment on the study goals, evaluation criteria, and other issues. The CRP membership included the following organizations:

- Alleghany Properties
- Alkali Flat Neighborhood Association
- American River Parkway Foundation
- Arco Arena/Maloof Sports and Entertainment
- Capitol Station District
- Councilmember Ray Tretheway
- Cleaner Air Partnership
- County of Sacramento Disability Compliance Program
- Downtown Sacramento Partnership
- Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)
- Integral Design
- Lennar Homes
- Lewis Operating Corporation
- Maloof Sports and Entertainment
- Metro Air Park
- Natomas Business Association
- Natomas Community Association (NCA)
- Neighborhood Area Group (NAG)
- North Natomas Transportation Management Association
- Northgate/Gardenland Neighborhood Association
- North Natomas Alliance
- North Natomas Community Association
- North Natomas Study Group
- Office of Assemblymember Steinberg
- River Oaks Community Association
- Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Sacramento Labor Council
- Sacramento Metro Chamber
- Sacramento River Property Owners Association
- SacTEN
- Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (SACTO)
- Save the American River Association
- South Natomas Transportation Management Association
- Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR)
- Valley View Acres Community Association



DNA Corridor Open House, July 23, 2003

3.2 Agency Coordination

The following is a list of public agencies that provided information and/or participated in the identification and evaluation of the study alternatives throughout the AA study:

- American River Flood Control District
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California State Lands Commission

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- Division of Aeronautics; California Department of Transportation
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
 - Los Rios Community College District
 - Lower American River Taskforce
 - National Marine Fisheries
 - Reclamation District 1000 (RD-1000)
 - Sacramento County Department of Water Resources
 - Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
 - Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (CSD-1)
 - Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

3.3 Organizations and Stakeholders Consulted

In addition to using agencies and groups represented on the TRP and CRP, the PI program used existing community forums to consult with various neighborhood, community, business and environmental organizations. Groups that were contacted and who participated in the study are listed in Table 3.3-1. As noted in the table, 81 meetings were held for the general public, 60 meetings with public agencies, and 42 stakeholder interviews and one-on-one meetings were held with elected officials, members of business and environmental groups, and community leaders.

3.4 Input Received

Numerous comments have been received from public agencies and the general public throughout the study. These comments generally fall into the following categories:

- Concerns about displacement of homes, traffic congestion, property values, public safety, and noise and visual impacts associated with the various alternatives.
- Several groups and a number of individuals have expressed support for providing light rail service in the Corridor. Other individuals have indicated support for BRT.
- Comments or questions related to transit operational issues: for example, will park-and-ride lots be included in the corridor?; how often will feeder bus service be provided and what routes will it use?; how will bus service be provided at the airport?; and when will the location of future transit stations be determined?
- Questions about the criteria used for the definition and evaluation of the alternatives.

**TABLE 3.3-1
DNA CORRIDOR MEETINGS**

General Public			
Date	Group/Stakeholder	Date	Group/Stakeholder
12/11/01	Public Scoping	09/25/02	TRP/CRP Meetings
12/12/01	Public Scoping	10/09/02	TRP/CRP Meetings
12/13/01	Public Scoping	10/09/02	Sacramento Co. Planning Comm.
01/11/02	City/County Planning Staff	10/23/02	TRP/CRP Meetings
01/16/02	Downtown Partnership	10/24/02	Lower American River Task Force
01/16/02	Airport Managers	10/28/02	RT Board of Directors
01/16/02	Natomas Community Assn.	10/29/02	LAR Floodway Protection Group
01/17/02	South Natomas TMA	10/31/02	LAR Fish Working Group
01/30/02	Capitol Station District	11/06/02	LAR Bank Protection Group
01/30/02	North Natomas Alliance	11/12/02	LAR Recreation Working Group
01/31/02	TRP/CRP Meeting	11/13/02	Community Workshop
02/06/02	North Natomas TMA	11/14/02	City Planning Commission
02/06/02	Sacramento City TMA	11/20/02	TRP/CRP Meetings
02/20/02	Alkali Flat Neighborhood PAC	11/20/02	SACTO
02/20/02	Natomas Transportation Faire	11/21/02	River Oaks Community Assn.
02/27/02	TRP/CRP Meetings	11/27/02	LAR Floodway Protection Group
03/06/02	ECOS	12/09/02	RT Board of Directors
03/06/02	North Natomas Study Group	12/12/02	SAFCA Board
03/12/02	Lower American River Task Force	01/21/03	Discovery Village Homeowners
02/18/02	DECAT	01/22/03	TRP/CRP Meetings
03/21/02	River Oaks Community Assn.	01/23/03	Natomas Crossing Comm. Assn.
03/27/02	TRP/CRP Meetings	03/20/03	Friends of Light Rail & Transit
04/08/02	RT Board of Directors	03/24/03	RT Board of Directors
04/17/02	Alkali Flat Neighborhood PAC	03/26/03	TRP/CRP Meetings
04/24/02	TRP/CRP Meeting	04/08/03	City Council Presentation
05/20/02	Neighborhood Area Group	04/16/03	Alkali Flat Neighborhood PAC
06/26/02	TRP/CRP Meetings	05/12/03	RT Board of Directors
07/24/02	TRP/CRP Meetings	05/28/03	TRP/CRP Meetings
08/07/02	South Natomas TMA	06/24/03	TRP/CRP Meetings
08/07/02	North Natomas TMA	07/22/03	Community Workshop
08/07/02	ECOS	07/28/03	RT Board of Directors
08/12/02	RT Board of Directors	07/30/03	Capitol Station District
07/29/02	Friends of Swainson's Hawk	09/04/03	DECAT
08/28/02	Metro Chamber	09/13/03	Truxel Road Preservation Assn.
08/28/02	Capitol Station District	09/22/03	RT Board of Directors
09/10/02	Lower American River Task Force	10/01/03	TRP/CRP Meetings
09/11/02	North Natomas Working Group	10/20/03	Truxel Road Preservation Assn.
09/18/02	Downtown Partnership	10/22/03	Metro Chamber
09/18/02	Alkali Flat Neighborhood PAC	10/27/03	RT Board of Directors
09/18/02	Natomas Community Assn.	10/29/03	Downtown Partnership
09/19/02	River Oaks Community Assn.	Total number of meetings: 81	

**TABLE 3.3-1
DNA CORRIDOR MEETINGS (CONTINUED)**

Public Agencies			
Date	Group/Stakeholder	Date	Group/Stakeholder
01/09/02	City Public Works Department	02/18/03	City Public Works Department
01/10/02	City Public Works Department	02/19/03	County Airport System
01/31/02	City Econ. Development Dept.	03/03/03	County Planning Department
02/20/02	Western Area Power Admin.	03/07/03	Federal Transit Administration
04/05/02	City Planning Department	03/12/03	City Public Works Department
04/24/02	City Planning Department	03/20/03	County Airport System
04/26/02	Federal Transit Administration	04/01/03	Sacramento Municipal Unity Dist.
06/03/02	City Public Works Department	04/03/03	City Public Works/Planning
07/23/02	Caltrans	04/10/03	City Public Works
07/29/02	County Parks, SAFCA	04/10/03	Sacramento Area Council of Gov.
07/29/02	Sacramento Area Council of Gov.	04/16/03	City Public Works Department
08/01/02	City Public Works/Planning	05/05/03	Co. Planning/Parks Departments
08/15/02	City Public Works Department	05/08/03	City Public Works Department
08/22/02	City Planning Department	05/13/03	Sacramento Municipal Unity Dist.
08/26/02	Caltrans	06/03/03	City Economic Development Dept.
08/29/02	City Planning Department	06/04/03	County Sanitation District
09/05/02	City Public Works/Planning	06/11/03	City Public Works Department
09/24/02	County Airport System	06/30/03	Environmental Agencies
10/02/02	SAFCA, County Parks	07/14/03	County Airport System
10/03/03	City Public Works/Planning	07/15/03	County Airport System
10/10/02	Reclamation District 1000	07/21/03	City Public Works Department
10/07/02	City Public Works/Planning	07/29/03	County Sanitation District
11/08/02	City Public Works Department	08/08/03	Sacramento Area Council of Gov.
12/13/02	Caltrans	08/14/03	City Public Works/Planning
12/18/02	Environmental Agencies	09/09/03	City Parking Division
01/02/03	City Public Works/Planning	09/10/03	City Public Works Department
01/10/03	Caltrans, City Public Works Dept.	09/10/03	Sacramento Area Council of Gov.
01/23/03	City Public Works Department	09/23/03	Natomas Unified School District
01/30/03	County Parks Department	10/02/03	City Public Works/Planning
02/06/03	City Public Works/Planning	10/06/03	County Airport System
		Total number of meetings: 60	

**TABLE 3.3-1
DNA CORRIDOR MEETINGS (CONTINUED)**

Stakeholders	
Date	Group/Stakeholder
03/11/02	Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo
03/13/02	SACOG Exec. Director Marty Tuttle
03/19/02	RT Director Dave Jones
03/22/02	Mariko Yamada, Dist. Director, Yolo County Supervisor Dave Rosenberg
03/25/02	RT Director Roger Dickinson
03/26/02	Terry Burns, Natomas Unified School District
03/26/02	Sacramento County Parks Commissioner Art White
03/28/02	Sacramento City Councilmember Jimmie Yee
03/28/02	RT Director Ray Tretheway
03/28/02	Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin
03/28/02	Sacramento Councilmember Lauren Hammond
04/02/02	Martie Dotie, Yolo County Transportation District
04/03/02	Sacramento City Planning Commissioner Matt Jacobs
04/04/02	Mark Stone, Vice President, Arco Arena
04/08/02	Airport Executive Director Hardy Acree
04/08/02	Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Cohn
04/15/02	Sacramento County Supervisor Muriel Johnson
04/15/02	RT Director Don Notolli
04/23/02	California Department of General Services Director Barry Keene
04/25/03	Don Harris, President, Nehemiah Corporation
04/26/02	Sacramento City Planning Commissioners Debra Jones and Jim Bacchini
04/29/02	RT Director Roger Niello
04/29/02	RT Director Bonnie Pannell
07/16/02	RT Director Ray Tretheway
05/13/03	Representative of Northern Territories, Inc.
07/26/02	RT Director Roger Dickinson
08/13/02	Representatives of AKT Development
08/15/02	Gerry Kamilos, Metro Air Park
09/12/02	David Tooker, Superintendent, Natomas Unified School District
08/27/02	Consultant Representatives of Union Pacific Railroad
09/30/02	RT Director Roger Dickinson
10/02/02	Andy Plescia, City Railyards Redevelopment Consultant
10/03/02	RT Director Ray Tretheway
11/14/02	Sacramento City Councilmember Sandy Sheedy
01/14/03	RT Director Dave Jones
01/14/03	City Councilmember Jimmie Yee
01/23/03	RT Director Steve Cohn
06/05/03	RT Director Ray Tretheway
07/18/03	RT Director Ray Tretheway
07/18/03	RT Director Steve Cohn
07/21/03	RT Director Roger Dickinson
08/25/03	RT Director Dave Jones
Total number of meetings: 42	

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- Comments from the USFWS, EPA, the US Coast Guard, the Lower American River Taskforce, the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, and other resource agencies and groups requesting continuing agency coordination with RT.

3.5 Upcoming Public Involvement Through Adoption of a LPA

Through review of the AA Report and adoption of a LPA by the RT Board of Directors, RT will continue to meet with the TRP/CRP; neighborhood, business, environmental and community groups; stakeholders; and public agencies to provide information about the evaluation of alternatives and analysis results.

A draft of the DNA Corridor Alternatives Analysis Report was made available for public review beginning on November 6, 2003, with a public comment period extending through December 8, 2003. During this period, RT hosted a public workshop on November 20 at the Sacramento Convention Center. This provided the public an opportunity to review the study results and conclusions and to provide comments. In addition, the RT Board of Directors convened a Public Hearing to discuss the results of the AA Report on December 8, 2003. Following the Public Hearing, the RT Board of Directors considered the technical analysis, study results, and Public Hearing record. Based on this assessment along with feedback provided by the community throughout the identification and evaluation of the study alternatives, the RT Board of Directors then selected a LPA that identified a preferred corridor alignment and transit mode.