

Urban Design Summary

Involvement

INVOLVEMENT

Public and agency involvement have helped guide the development of Project Pegasus. The process has involved individuals, neighborhoods, community and special interest groups, agency representatives, and policy leaders. The objective has been and continues to be to build consensus for a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the IH 30 and IH 35E corridors. Throughout the public and agency involvement process, all aspects of Urban Design have been reviewed. The following goals have guided the public and agency involvement program:

- Inform, educate, and actively involve agencies and the public;
- Create opportunities for early and continuing community and agency participation in the decision-making process;
- Maintain accountability, credibility, and responsibility throughout the study;
- Include traditionally underserved and underrepresented groups in the process; and
- Strive for consensus among inevitable competing interests.

Opportunities for active participation from the public have been provided throughout the study. Public meetings were held in November 2001, May 2002, and January 2003. Additionally, the project team has made 33 presentations to various community organizations and elected officials.

A website has also been developed – (www.projectpegasus.org). This site has more information than can be contained in a newsletter such as project history, maps, and summaries of meetings. The website allows design alternatives to be posted in an easy-to-use format to facilitate the review by the public. The website includes information on how to e-mail comments to project designers, be added to the mailing list, or request a presentation. In addition, three newsletters have been published and the project has a portable project kiosk that has been used at public locations within the project study area to help people remain informed about the project's existence, purpose, need, and progress.

To inform businesses and property owners, over 280 information packets were hand delivered to businesses and property owners immediately adjacent to the freeways in November and December 2001. Packets included an overview of the project and its background, a location map, schedule, planned public involvement activities, project newsletter, and mail-back card for the mailing list. Property owners, leasing agents, and tenants were added to the project mailing list.

Other public/agency involvement efforts include the establishment of a Community Work Group (CWG) and a Project Coordination Work Group (PCWG). The CWG includes representatives from organized interest groups and is intended to represent the range of diverse interests in the study area. The group met every other month from February 2002 through December 2003. The PCWG includes staff of all involved agencies and meets on a regular basis. The PCWG is composed of representatives from agencies and local governments that have a role in funding, permitting, and/or planning and implementing any proposed transportation improvements. This group met almost every month from January 2002 through October 2003.

Throughout the many meetings and presentations, comments have been solicited on Urban Design elements for the project. The comments received during work group meetings and public meetings are included in the Appendix of report. These comments can and will assist in the further development of Urban Design concepts. Furthermore, as the project moves forward into more detailed engineering and design, additionally opportunities for public comment on Urban Design can ideally be extended to the community.

