

Chapter 27: Public and Agency Consultation and Coordination

27.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the public and agency coordination for the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is typically led by a federal agency because the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required only for federal actions. In the case of transportation projects that involve federal funding or approval of improvements to the highway system, this agency is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

However, for highway transportation projects in Utah, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has been assigned the authority to carry out FHWA's responsibility under NEPA and other specified federal environmental laws, including the authority to act as the lead agency for preparing EISs. This assignment was made pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) Section 327 and is documented in a January 17, 2017, Memorandum of Understanding between FHWA and UDOT. As the lead agency, UDOT is responsible for preparing the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS, including the requirements for conducting and documenting public and agency coordination and consultation (<https://udot.utah.gov/connect/about-us/program-development-group/environmental-division>).

The public involvement effort described in this chapter was extensive to ensure that all stakeholder input concerns were heard and considered. The public involvement effort resulted in UDOT receiving over 15,000 comments during the Draft EIS comment period.

Who is the lead agency for the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS?

Pursuant to a memorandum executed by FHWA and UDOT, UDOT is the lead agency responsible for preparing this EIS and carrying out many of the consultation requirements described in this chapter.

27.2 Regulatory Setting

FHWA's guidance for preparing EISs states that an EIS should contain copies of pertinent correspondence with each cooperating agency, other agencies, and the public. It should summarize (1) the early coordination process, including scoping; (2) the meetings with community groups (including minority and nonminority interests) and individuals; and (3) the key issues and pertinent information received from the public and government agencies through these efforts (FHWA 1987).

What is scoping?

Scoping is the formal early coordination process required by the Council on Environmental Quality's 1979 regulations (40 CFR Section 1501.7). It is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

27.3 Public and Agency Involvement

Public and agency involvement is important to the success of any project that could affect the community. The planning for the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS involved extensive coordination and consultation with the affected community, agencies, and other stakeholders. The affected community includes not only the residents and businesses but also landowners, individuals, groups, tribes, and others interested in the project study area.

The planning process was structured and implemented to ensure that all relevant factors were considered, including the affected community's concerns and issues related to the project's purpose and need, engineering solutions, social impacts, environmental impacts, economic effects, and other issues of concern to the community.

27.3.1 Public Outreach Activities and Information Exchange

The goal of the public and agency involvement program and process as a part of NEPA is to gather input from the local community, tribes, and government leadership to help inform the decisions regarding the impacts and implementation of a Preferred Alternative. The public and agency involvement process is open to ensure that interested parties have an opportunity to be involved in planning. Stakeholders had an opportunity to direct, review, and comment on the EIS analysis and results at major milestones reached during the course of the study.

Note that the public involvement process under NEPA is not meant to be a vote-casting or vote-counting process. The information provided through comments during the NEPA process benefits the decision-makers by providing them with relevant information about how the proposed alternative actions are expected to affect the environment, what kind of alternatives or mitigation measures might be appropriate to analyze or require, what resources are important to the stakeholders, and other information. The intent of NEPA, including public comments, is to increase the quantity and quality of information available to decision-makers about the consequences of the proposed action.

What is the intent of NEPA?

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The public involvement plan for the S.R. 210 Project is available as Appendix A of the *Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Coordination Plan*, which is available on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>).

27.3.2 Outreach Compliance with Federal Laws

The public and agency involvement program was conducted in a manner consistent with NEPA and the regulations in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This program was also designed to be consistent with 23 USC Section 139, *Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision-making*, and the corresponding regulations and guidelines of FHWA.

The preparation of this EIS followed these laws by reaching out to the agencies, the public, and other stakeholders and providing an opportunity for input into and collaboration on the processes of defining the project purpose and need and identifying potential alternatives.

27.4 Initial Coordination (Notices of Intent)

A lead agency must publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS. The NOI is a requirement of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulation at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1501.9 that initiates the mandated scoping process for all EISs. This notice provides a short description of the project, the proposed action, and preliminary alternatives. The NOI also describes the scoping process, identifies any upcoming formal public meetings that are associated with the project, and includes the name, address, and phone number of a contact person.

For the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS process, three NOIs were published.

27.4.1 First NOI: March 9, 2018

On March 9, 2018, FHWA, on behalf of UDOT, published an NOI to prepare the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS for proposed improvements to State Route (S.R.) 210 (Federal Register Vol. 83, No. 47, page 10545). The NOI stated UDOT's proposal to make operational improvements, introduce demand-management measures such as tolling, and facilitate implementation of improved public transit service on S.R. 210. UDOT requested public and agency input to the scope of the EIS during a 57-day scoping period from March 9 to May 4, 2018.

27.4.2 Second NOI: March 5, 2019

After reviewing scoping comments and the need for the project, UDOT revised the scope of this EIS to focus on making operational improvements to key intersections in Little Cottonwood Canyon, enhancing safety, and improving wintertime mobility through avalanche mitigation, improving parking at existing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service trailheads, and making roadway improvements to Wasatch Boulevard from S.R. 190/Fort Union Boulevard to North Little Cottonwood Road. FHWA, on behalf of UDOT, published a revised NOI on March 5, 2019 (Federal Register Vol. 84, No. 43, page 7967), describing UDOT's revised scope for the project and initiating a new scoping process. Comments on the revised NOI were due on May 3, 2019.

27.4.3 Third NOI: May 15, 2019

As part of the release of the March 5, 2019, revised NOI, UDOT invited public and agency comments during a scoping period from March 5 to May 3, 2019, which included a public scoping meeting on April 9, 2019.

Just prior to the initiation of this scoping period, the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) released a draft version of its 2019–2050 *Wasatch Front Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP), which included project R-S-53 to widen Little Cottonwood Canyon Road (S.R. 210) from two to three lanes from Wasatch Boulevard to the end of the canyon. This project was not included in WFRC's previous 2015–2040 RTP. The draft 2019–2050 RTP also included a project to implement special bus service in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

What is the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC)?

WFRC is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the Wasatch Front. WFRC works with stakeholders to develop the *Wasatch Front Regional Transportation Plan*, which is the region's plan for highway, transit, and other transportation-related improvements to meet the area's growing transportation needs over the next 30 years.

After reviewing the draft 2019–2050 RTP, UDOT revised the scope of the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS. The revised scope included the same elements from the March 5, 2019, revised NOI plus the addition of the two projects on S.R. 210 in Little Cottonwood Canyon from the draft 2019–2050 RTP. The third NOI was published on May 15, 2019 (Federal Register Vol. 94, No. 94, page 21895).

To ensure that the public was informed about UDOT’s intention to analyze widening Little Cottonwood Canyon Road in the EIS, UDOT sent an email to interested stakeholders and agencies and held an agency scoping meeting on April 3, 2019, notifying them of the change in EIS focus. In addition, the change in EIS focus was included in project information provided at the April 9, 2019, public scoping meeting. The scoping period for public comments was extended from May 3 to June 14, 2019, to allow additional time for the public and agencies to comment on the third NOI.

27.5 Agency Coordination

Throughout the EIS process, UDOT coordinated with federal, state, and local agencies that oversee the management of natural resources in the project study area. Since these agencies oversee impacts and issue permits regarding their resource areas, it is important to include them from the initial scoping activities throughout the project’s development. In this way, issues are identified early so that they can be properly considered and, if necessary, avoided, minimized, or mitigated as the project progresses.

During the EIS scoping period for the first (March 9, 2018) NOI, the agencies were notified of the consultation and coordination requirements in 23 USC Section 139 at the agency scoping meeting that was held in Salt Lake City on April 9, 2018. The preparation of this EIS meets the intent of this law because UDOT reached out to agencies and gave them an opportunity to provide input into and collaborate on the processes of defining the project’s purpose and need and identifying potential alternatives.

As part of the release of the second NOI on March 5, 2019, a second agency scoping meeting was held in Salt Lake City on April 3, 2019. Information from both agency scoping meetings was used to inform the development of this EIS.

27.5.1 Coordination Plan

The purpose of the *Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Coordination Plan* was to identify the coordination that UDOT would undertake with the federal, state, and local agencies who agreed to be participating or cooperating agencies during the NEPA process for the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS in accordance with 23 USC Section 139. The *Coordination Plan* defined the roles and expectations of the participating and cooperating agencies and established a commitment to review the EIS at specific milestones. The public was notified of the availability of the *Coordination Plan* at the public scoping meeting (see Section 27.7.2, *Public Scoping*) as part of the scoping period for the March 9, 2018, NOI.

As part of the release of the March 5, 2019, NOI, UDOT revised and released the *Coordination Plan* for agency and public review in June 2019.

Since that time, the members of the UDOT team and participating and cooperating team members changed, with UDOT announcing a new project manager and several of the agencies announcing a new point of contact. Following these changes, UDOT revised the *Coordination Plan* in February 2021 and placed it on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>) for review.

27.5.2 Identification of Participating and Cooperating Agencies

Agencies that would have permitting or other authority for the S.R. 210 Project were invited to participate in the project planning process as NEPA cooperating agencies.

In addition, federal and nonfederal agencies that might have an interest in the project but not necessarily permitting authority were invited to participate in the project planning process as participating agencies. These agencies were invited to become participating agencies in the environmental review process according to 23 USC Section 139.

The roles and responsibilities of cooperating and participating agencies include but are not limited to:

- Participating in the NEPA process starting at the earliest possible time, especially with regard to the development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, methodologies, and Preferred Alternative.
- Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. Participating agencies are also allowed to participate in an issue-resolution process.
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues.
- Participating in the scoping process.

Other federal, state, and local agencies and organizations (referred to as nonparticipating agencies and organizations) were contacted as necessary to obtain information about the study area and any issues or concerns they had.

27.5.2.1 Cooperating Agencies

A *cooperating agency* is defined in 40 CFR Section 1508.5 of the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations as a federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to environmental impacts involved in a proposed project or project alternative. Their selection and responsibilities are defined in 40 CFR Section 1501.6. All cooperating agencies are participating agencies by definition.

As part of the release of the first (March 9, 2018) NOI, UDOT sent invitation letters to five federal agencies (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and two local agencies (Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities and Utah Transit Authority) on March 7, 2018, inviting them to be either a cooperating agency or a participating agency. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, and the Utah Transit Authority accepted the invitation to be a cooperating agency.

As part of the release of the second (March 5, 2019) NOI, UDOT sent a letter on February 27, 2019, to the cooperating agencies that accepted the March 7, 2018, invitation informing them of the revised NOI and

What is a cooperating agency?

A cooperating agency is any federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. All cooperating agencies are participating agencies by definition.

second EIS scoping period. The letter noted the revised scope of the EIS process. The letter also stated that UDOT intended to continue the process with the list of agencies that accepted cooperating and/or participating agency status as part of the first (March 9, 2018) NOI, unless the agency wished to change its status of being a cooperating and/or participating agency. None of the agencies changed its cooperating agency status.

27.5.2.2 Participating Agencies

A *participating agency* is defined as a federal or nonfederal agency “that might have an interest in the project.” The selection and responsibilities for participating agencies are defined in 23 USC Section 139 and differ from those defined for cooperating agencies. For instance, participating agencies are given an opportunity to help develop the project’s purpose and need statement and the range of alternatives considered as well as the coordination plan and the schedule for the project. A participating agency is not necessarily also a cooperating agency.

What is a participating agency?

A participating agency is a federal or nonfederal agency that might have an interest in the project. A participating agency is not necessarily also a cooperating agency.

As part of the release of the first (March 9, 2018) NOI, UDOT sent invitation letters on March 7, 2018, to the 7 agencies listed in Section 27.5.2.1, *Cooperating Agencies*, as well as 37 additional state agencies, regional governments or agencies, and local governments inviting them to participate in the environmental review process as a participating agency. Letters for the state agencies were sent through the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), since UDOT’s environmental process guidelines state that requests for state agencies to become participating agencies should be processed through RDCC. Of the agencies invited to be participating agencies, 17 accepted the invitation. The participating agencies are:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Governor’s Office, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC)
- Utah Division of Air Quality
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Utah Division of Indian Affairs
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Utah Office of Tourism
- Salt Lake County, Planning and Development
- Salt Lake County, Public Works and Municipal Services Department, Engineering Division
- Salt Lake County, Regional Transportation, Housing and Economic Development
- Cottonwood Heights City
- Murray City
- Sandy City
- Town of Alta
- Central Wasatch Commission
- Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy
- Wasatch Front Regional Council

As part of the release of the second (March 5, 2019) NOI, UDOT sent letters on February 27, 2019, to the participating agencies that accepted the March 7, 2018, invitation informing them of the revised NOI and second EIS scoping period. The letter noted that the EIS process had been focused on fewer improvements that were practicable and implementable. The letter also stated that UDOT intended to continue the process with the list of agencies that accepted cooperating and/or participating agency status as part of the March 9,

2018, NOI unless the agency wished to change its status of being a cooperating and/or participating agency. None of the agencies changed its participating agency status.

27.5.2.3 Tribes

Because of the potential for cultural resources near the project study area, invitations to be participating agencies were sent on March 7, 2018, and on February 27, 2019, to the Cedar Band of Paiutes, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation, Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of the Fort Hall Reservation, Skull Valley Band of Goshutes, and Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The tribes were provided project information and invited to attend the agency scoping meeting. None of the tribes responded to the request to become a participating agency.

27.6 Agency Scoping

27.6.1 April 9, 2018, Agency Scoping Meeting

On March 7, 2018, as part of the release of the first (March 9, 2018) NOI, UDOT sent invitation letters to the agencies listed in Section 27.5.2.1, *Cooperating Agencies*, as well as 37 additional state agencies, regional governments or agencies, and local governments inviting them to participate in the environmental review process as a cooperating and/or participating agency and notifying them of the agency scoping meeting scheduled for April 9, 2018. These letters invited agency representatives to attend the meeting, requested agency involvement as a cooperating or participating agency for the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS, and solicited agency comments on the resources in the project study area. In addition, the tribes listed in Section 27.5.2.3, *Tribes*, were invited to the agency scoping meeting. Table 27.6-1 lists the agencies that attended the first agency scoping meeting.

Table 27.6-1. Attendees of the April 9, 2018, Agency Scoping Meeting

Attendees	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Utah Transit Authority
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	Salt Lake County
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Cottonwood Heights City
Governor's Office, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC)	Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Utah Division of Air Quality	Sandy City
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands	Town of Alta
Utah Division of Indian Affairs	Central Wasatch Commission
Utah Division of Water Quality	Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy
Utah Office of Tourism	Wasatch Front Regional Council

A brief presentation was given that included a project overview as well as the requirements of being a cooperating and/or participating agency. The materials that were discussed at the meeting included the

purpose of and need for the project, potential alternatives, alternatives screening, indirect impacts, and other issues pertaining to the S.R. 210 Project. In addition, to help identify potential issues, UDOT completed an environmental checklist with input from the agencies. The meeting minutes, a summary of the comments received, and the meeting notification materials are included in the July 12, 2018, *Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Scoping Summary Report*, which is available on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>).

27.6.2 April 3, 2019, Agency Scoping Meeting

On February 27, 2019, as part of the release of the second (March 5, 2019) NOI, UDOT sent letters to the cooperating and participating agencies listed in Section 27.5.2, *Identification of Participating and Cooperating Agencies*, inviting them to attend a second agency scoping meeting scheduled for April 3, 2019. These letters invited agency representatives to attend the meeting, requested agency involvement as a cooperating or participating agency, and solicited agency comments on the resources in the project study area. Table 27.6-2 lists the agencies that attended the second agency scoping meeting.

Table 27.6-2. Attendees of the April 3, 2019, Agency Scoping Meeting

Attendees	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Cottonwood Heights City
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	Murray City
Utah Division of Air Quality	Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Utah Office of Tourism	Central Wasatch Commission
Utah Transit Authority	Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy
Salt Lake County	Wasatch Front Regional Council

A brief presentation was given that included a project overview. The materials that were discussed at the meeting included the purpose of and need for the project, potential alternatives, alternatives screening, indirect impacts, and other issues pertaining to the project. In addition, to help identify potential issues, UDOT completed an environmental checklist with input from the agencies. Following the meeting, an email was sent to all of the participating and cooperating agencies that both attended and did not attend the April 3, 2019, meeting with a copy of the presentation and a fact sheet about the project. The meeting minutes, a summary of the comments received, and the meeting notification materials are included in the September 27, 2019, *Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Scoping Summary Report*, which is available on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>).

27.6.3 Additional Agency Coordination

UDOT used the agency comments received during the scoping period, along with other transportation and environmental data and the analysis collected during the environmental studies, to help identify the purpose of and need for the project, refine alternatives, and make decisions regarding the methodology for the alternatives analysis.

27.6.4 Opportunities for the Cooperating and Participating Agencies to Help Develop the Project Purpose and Need Statement

27.6.4.1 March 11, 2019, Purpose and Need Statement

The statute at 23 USC Section 139 requires an opportunity for cooperating and participating agencies to help develop a project’s purpose and need statement. On March 11, 2019, as part of the second (March 5, 2019) scoping period, UDOT published a draft of the project purpose and need statement for review by the agencies and the public through June 17, 2019. Members of the public and agencies were encouraged to provide comments by email, on the project website, and by postal mail. UDOT received two comments on the draft purpose and need statement. The draft purpose and need statement was also discussed at the agency scoping meeting on April 3, 2019.

27.6.4.2 November 4, 2019, Purpose and Need Statement

Based on comments received on the March 11, 2019, purpose and need statement and the revised scope of the project described in the third (May 15, 2019) NOI, UDOT revised the purpose and need statement. A notice about the comment period for the revised purpose and need statement was sent to cooperating and participating agencies on October 11, 2019, notifying the agencies of the comment period from November 4 through December 13, 2019, and an agency meeting to discuss the revised purpose and need statement on October 30, 2019.

Table 27.6-3 lists the agencies that attended the meeting. Darker blue shading indicates agencies that provided comments on the purpose and need statement during the comment period.

Table 27.6-3. Attendees of the October 30, 2019, Agency Meeting

Attendees	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Salt Lake County
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	Cottonwood Heights City
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Murray City
Utah Division of Air Quality	Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Utah Division of Water Quality	Sandy City
Utah Office of Tourism	Central Wasatch Commission
Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office	Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy
Utah Transit Authority	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Darker blue shading indicates agencies that provided comments on both the purpose and need statement and the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*.

27.6.5 Opportunities for the Cooperating and Participating Agencies To Help Define the Range of Alternatives

27.6.5.1 March 11, 2019, Alternatives Screening Methodology Report

The statute at 23 USC Section 139 requires an opportunity for cooperating and participating agencies to help define the range of alternatives. On March 11, 2019, UDOT published a draft of the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report* for review by the agencies and the public through June 14, 2019. Members of the public and agencies were encouraged to provide comments by email, on the project website, and by postal mail. UDOT received two comments on the draft *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*. The report was also discussed at the agency scoping meeting on April 3, 2019.

27.6.5.2 November 4, 2019, Alternatives Screening Methodology Report

Based on comments received on the March 11, 2019, *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report* and the revised scope of the project described in the third (May 15, 2019) NOI, UDOT revised the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*. A notice about the comment period for the revised report was sent to cooperating and participating agencies on October 11, 2019, notifying them of the comment period from November 4 through December 13, 2019, and an agency meeting to discuss the report on October 30, 2019.

Table 27.6-3 above lists the agencies that attended the meeting. Darker blue shading indicates agencies that provided comments on the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report* during the comment period.

27.6.5.3 June 8, 2020, Alternatives Screening Report

Based on the alternatives suggested by the public and agencies during the scoping periods, the review of the purpose and need statement, and the review of the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*, UDOT conducted an alternatives development and screening process. The results of this process were published in the *Alternatives Screening Report* for agency and public review on June 8, 2020. The review and comment period was open from June 8 through July 10, 2020. UDOT sent notifications of the release of the *Alternative Screening Report* for review by email on May 11, 2020. In addition, UDOT held an agency meeting online on June 4, 2020, to go over the results of the report. At the meeting, UDOT provided an overview of the alternatives considered, the screening process, and the results of the screening process.

Table 27.6-4 shows the agencies that attended on online meeting. The meeting was held online because of social distancing requirements related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Table 27.6-4. Attendees of the June 4, 2020, Online Alternatives Development Meeting

Attendees	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Utah Transit Authority
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	Salt Lake County
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Cottonwood Heights City
Utah Division of Air Quality	Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Utah Division of Indian Affairs	Sandy City Water Department
Utah Division of Water Quality	Town of Alta
Utah Office of Tourism	Central Wasatch Commission
Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office	Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy

27.6.6 Coordination and Consultation Required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (codified at 54 USC Section 306108) requires federal agencies that fund, permit, or are otherwise involved in a project (for example, as a landowner) to consider the impacts that the federal undertaking would have on historic and archaeological resources. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding by which FHWA assigned certain of its authorities to UDOT, UDOT is responsible for compliance with Section 106 for the S.R. 210 Project and is conducting the compliance process as part of this EIS.

The regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, commonly referred to as the Section 106 regulations, implement the National Historic Preservation Act and describe the process through which the above actions are carried out. This process includes steps for consulting with state and/or tribal historic preservation officers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Native American tribes, and other interested parties.

For the S.R. 210 Project, in addition to federal and state agencies, UDOT consulted with several other entities with direct interest in historic architectural properties or archaeological resources that could be affected by the action alternatives. Agencies with direct jurisdiction over land within or adjacent to the action alternatives were also consulted. These entities included certified local governments (CLGs), historical societies and organizations, and mayors or town councils where no CLG or historical society exists. CLGs are entities that meet historic preservation standards established by the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), that act under the guidance of the SHPO, and that can be federally funded through the SHPO.

What is an undertaking?

An undertaking is a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a federal agency, those carried out with federal financial assistance, and those requiring a federal permit, license, or approval.

What are interested parties?

Interested parties include property owners, local historic preservation societies, and neighborhood associations with a demonstrated interest in the project.

UDOT contacted the following groups by letter, invited them to become consulting parties for the project, and invited them to provide information about architectural and archaeological resources of importance to their communities or organizations:

- Alta Community Enrichment
- Alta Historical Society
- Cottonwood Canyons Foundation
- Cottonwood Heights CLG
- Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee
- Friends of Alta
- Salt Lake City CLG
- Save Our Canyons
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church History Department
- Wasatch Mountain Club

UDOT's consultation with the agencies, municipalities, and CLGs focused on soliciting information about the known or potential presence of historic architectural properties and archaeological resources in the areas that could be directly or indirectly affected by the action alternatives. To date, none of the above groups has identified any specific concerns in the project's area of potential effects.

27.6.7 Tribal Consultation

The National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, require that federal agencies involved in a project that could affect resources of importance to Native American tribes must consult with those tribes when the location of the federal undertaking is within an area of traditional use for the tribe and/or could affect resources of cultural, religious, or traditional importance to the tribe. This consultation is to occur at a government-to-government level in recognition of the sovereign status of the tribes.

Under the January 17, 2017, Memorandum of Understanding executed between FHWA and UDOT, FHWA has assigned most of its responsibilities in the environmental review process to UDOT, but FHWA has retained its responsibility for government-to-government consultation with Native American tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, UDOT is responsible for carrying out most of the responsibilities of a federal agency in the Section 106 process, including notifying Native American tribes. If a tribe requests government-to-government consultation with the federal government, FHWA would be responsible for carrying out that consultation directly with the tribe.

UDOT provided notification of the S.R. 210 Project and EIS to the tribal chairperson or president, and to the tribal historic preservation officer, of the Cedar Band of Paiutes, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation, Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of the Fort Hall Reservation, Skull Valley Band of Goshutes, and Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Notification included written correspondence inviting the tribes to participate in consultation on the project. The following specific correspondences were sent:

- **Letter on March 7, 2018.** The letter included an invitation to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process and a brief description of the project.
- **Letter on February 27, 2019.** The letter included information about the release of a revised Notice of Intent, project study area, potential project alternatives, and date and time of a scoping meeting.
- **Email on April 4, 2019.** The email included information about the release of a revised Notice of Intent and two attachments—one a presentation about the project that included information about the study area and potential alternatives and the other a fact sheet detailing why the project is needed.
- **Letter on April 5, 2019.** The letter provided new information regarding the release of a revised Notice of Intent and changes to the project including the potential to add vehicle capacity to S.R. 210 in Little Cottonwood Canyon.
- **Letter on June 21, 2019.** The letter included an updated invitation to become a Section 106 consulting party and information about the revised Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on May 15, 2019.
- **Email on June 25, 2021.** The email announced the availability of the Draft EIS, described the comment process, and included a letter that summarized the EIS process and provided an update to the Section 106 process.

One tribe responded to the letters and email. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of the Fort Hall Reservation responded to the February 27, 2019, letter and requested copies of the cultural resources survey conducted for the area. UDOT provided the project archaeological survey report to the tribe in February 2021 after the surveys were completed. The tribe also asked that the tribes be notified of any inadvertent discoveries during project implementation, which has been included in the project mitigation per the tribe's request.

In addition to receiving the letters and email listed above, the tribes were also included in the general email list for the project and received the notifications described in this chapter for each stage of the EIS process. To date, none of the tribes has identified any specific sites, resources, or traditional cultural places of concern in the project's area of potential effects. To date, no tribe has requested direct government-to-government consultation with FHWA.

27.6.8 Coordination with Providers of Environmental Justice Services

A primary goal of environmental justice coordination is to reach low-income and minority populations that have historically not been able to participate in the transportation decision-making process as readily as other groups. UDOT made specific efforts to contact all people living along and adjacent to S.R. 210, including any low-income or minority populations.

Representatives with public agencies, social services, and nonprofit organizations were contacted and interviewed to identify low-income, minority, and homeless populations in and around the environmental justice impact analysis area (for more information, see Chapter 5, *Environmental Justice*). This included outreach to the following County, Cities, and Town that currently provide services in this area:

- Salt Lake County
- Cottonwood Heights City
- Sandy City
- Town of Alta

Other public involvement and outreach efforts included the following:

- **Public Meetings.** During the development of this Draft EIS, two different series of public meetings (scoping and alternatives development) were held. Meetings were announced in local media outlets and through city websites.
- **Email Update List.** Members of the public who wanted to receive project information by email were sent regular updates about the project. These updates notified recipients about new information on the project website, upcoming events, and major project milestones.
- **Telephone Comment Line.** A telephone comment line recorded messages from people who called in their comments. A record was kept of all comments, and people who requested a response were contacted within a few days of their call. The telephone number was advertised on all communication materials including fact sheets, newsletters, brochures, display advertisements, and information displays. Fliers and comment forms also have contact information for Spanish speakers to get project information.
- **Project Website.** The project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>) was used to provide public access to timely information about the project and to allow quick, easy interaction with UDOT team members. The public was able to read information about the project, including the plans under consideration, and submit their comments online. Although the website was not a primary communication method for those who do not have internet access, it was an important way for those who do have access to become involved in the project. The project website was also available in Spanish. UDOT also coordinated with local municipalities to post links on their websites that send the public to the S.R. 210 Project website if they want more information.
- **Social Media.** UDOT provided project updates and posted notification of public meetings and comment periods on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

What is environmental justice?

Environmental justice is a term used to describe the fair and equitable treatment of minority and low-income people with regard to federally funded projects and activities.

27.6.9 Meetings with City and County Councils

During the scoping process for the first (March 9, 2018) NOI, UDOT presented at one town council meeting, one city council meeting, and one county council meeting. UDOT presented to the Town of Alta Council on April 12, 2018; the Sandy City Council on April 17, 2018; and the Salt Lake County Council on April 24, 2018. The presentations included information regarding the project's purpose and need, alternatives, environmental review process, and schedule.

During the scoping process for the second (March 5, 2019) NOI, UDOT presented to the Town of Alta Council on April 11, 2019; the Sandy City Council on April 23, 2019; the Salt Lake County Council on June 11, 2019; the Salt Lake City Council on June 11, 2019; and the Cottonwood Heights City Council on April 2, 2019. UDOT encouraged councils to submit scoping comments.

At each major EIS milestone following the scoping process (purpose and need statement and alternatives development), UDOT met with the town, city, and county councils. For more information, see Section 27.7.3, *Purpose and Need Public Review and Comment Periods*, and Section 27.7.4, *Alternatives Development Process*.

27.6.10 Meetings with the Cottonwood Heights City Planning and Engineering Departments

Throughout the EIS process, UDOT meet with members of the Cottonwood Heights City planning and engineering departments to discuss development of the Wasatch Boulevard alternatives and issues important to their residents. UDOT worked with Cottonwood Heights City to ensure that elements of its *Wasatch Boulevard Corridor Master Plan* were considered in developing alternatives. UDOT scheduled meetings at least monthly with Cottonwood Heights City throughout development of the Final EIS.

27.6.11 Meetings with the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities

Throughout the EIS process, UDOT meet with staff from the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities to discuss water quality and stormwater runoff issues related to the watershed in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Staff with the Department of Public Utilities stated in these meetings the importance of the watershed in Little Cottonwood Canyon to Salt Lake City's water supply. During the meetings, the attendees discussed best management practices related to stormwater runoff. UDOT scheduled monthly meetings with the Department of Public Utilities throughout the development of this Final EIS.

27.6.12 Meetings with the USDA Forest Service

Throughout the EIS process, UDOT regularly met with staff from the USDA Forest Service to discuss issues related to project impacts to National Forest System land in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The meetings included exchanges of information about existing conditions and discussions about the methodology for the environmental analysis, potential alternatives to be considered in the EIS, and land transfers and easements.

27.6.13 Meetings with the Utah Transit Authority

Throughout the EIS process, UDOT regularly met with staff from the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) to discuss issues related to the development of transit alternatives. UTA provided technical expertise regarding the operation of bus service and rail service including maintenance. This expertise allowed UDOT to develop transit alternatives that could be operated by UTA.

27.7 Public Involvement

In addition to agency coordination, public participation is important to developing sound recommendations and selecting alternatives that are supported by the community. UDOT's commitment at the beginning of this environmental review process was to proactively involve the public so decisions could be made that reflect the goals of those who live, work, and travel in the project study area. Throughout this process, UDOT has kept the public informed and has incorporated their feedback.

UDOT designed this EIS process to comply with public involvement requirements under NEPA and 23 USC Section 139 by reaching out to the public and giving the public an opportunity to provide input into and collaborate on the processes of defining the project purpose and need statement, identifying potential alternatives, and seeking an understanding of how a Preferred Alternative or Alternatives was selected.

27.7.1 Coordination and Public Involvement Plan

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Coordination Plan* included a public involvement element that introduced several strategies to inform the public about the project, develop an understanding of how a Preferred Alternative or Alternatives was selected, and address agency and public issues during the course of the EIS process. The goals of this plan were to:

- Provide a way for stakeholder agencies and the public to have direct and meaningful impacts on the project.
- Develop and implement a communication strategy that includes the public in the decision-making process and provides an early opportunity to comment and raise issues throughout the project's different phases and milestones.
- Identify stakeholder issues and concerns early and throughout the study process to avoid potential delaying issues.
- Increase awareness about the S.R. 210 Project.

The *Coordination Plan* ensured that UDOT worked with the public to address their concerns and suggestions and that these concerns and suggestions were directly reflected in the alternatives that were developed. The plan also ensured that UDOT provided feedback regarding how the public's input influenced the decisions made during the EIS process. The plan was updated throughout the process.

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Coordination Plan* is available on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>).

27.7.2 Public Scoping

As the first step in the NEPA process, scoping uses public and agency participation to develop possible solutions and identify issues regarding a proposed project. Scoping also helps determine the needs, objectives, resources, constraints, potential alternatives, and any additional requirements for screening criteria used to screen the preliminary alternatives.

UDOT relies on public comments made during scoping to help identify issues as well as to gauge public sentiment about the proposed improvements. Because the alternatives under consideration for this project could affect owners of property adjacent to the action alternatives as well as the public along the Wasatch Front, a combination of measures was taken to ensure that the public was notified about the project and invited to participate in the process.

27.7.2.1 Scoping Period for the First (March 9, 2018) NOI

27.7.2.1.1 Notifications

The scoping period for the first NOI was initiated with the Federal Register notice on March 9, 2018, and ended on May 4, 2018. The following methods were used to notify the general public of the public scoping meeting and activities:

- Advertisements were placed in the following publications:
 - *Deseret News*, March 27 and April 3, 2018
 - *The Salt Lake Tribune*, March 27 and April 3, 2018
- Information regarding the public meeting and the scoping period was posted on the S.R. 210 Project website and UDOT social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) on March 27; April 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 24, 26, and 27; and May 2 and 4, 2018.
- An email notice was sent to the UDOT mailing list on March 27 and April 6, 2018.
- A UDOT press release was sent to local media outlets on April 9, 2018, as a reminder of the public meeting on April 10, 2018.

27.7.2.1.2 Public Scoping Meeting

UDOT held a public scoping meeting on April 9, 2018, at the Cottonwood Heights City offices in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. The meeting was held in an open-house format with an interactive workshop from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The public scoping meeting included the following elements:

- The public was encouraged but not required to sign in at the registration desk.
- On entering the meeting room, each participant was given a brief explanation of the meeting format, information about how to submit comments, and details about where to find additional information about the project.
- Comment sheets were made available to each participant.
- Participants were encouraged to leave their comments.
- A project video summarizing the project was running continuously.
- Project staff members were available to answer questions and provide information.
- Four stations were set up with scroll maps of the project area, which included artist's renditions of potential improvements that could be considered. Meeting participants were encouraged to draw their ideas on the maps and make notes of issues and concerns.
- Two computer stations were available for commenters to identify specific areas on a map and record their comment.
- Commenters could give comments via a video interview.

About 158 people attended the April 9, 2018, public scoping meeting. During the scoping process, UDOT received more than 400 individual comment submissions from the public and agencies. The majority of the comments were related to alternatives for reducing congestion, improving the transit system, providing parking, and increasing safety for motorists and cyclists. Several comments expressed concern for natural resources and water quality in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Many commenters were concerned about impacts to neighborhoods along Wasatch Boulevard.

27.7.2.1.3 2018 Scoping Summary Report

UDOT prepared a *Scoping Summary Report* summarizing the public and agency input that was gathered during the first scoping period, which ran from March 9 through May 4, 2018. The 2018 *Scoping Summary Report* summarizes the agency and public scoping activities and comments received, and the report's appendices contain all scoping materials, including the meeting sign-in sheet, fact sheet, display boards, and copies of comments received during the 2018 scoping period. The 2018 *Scoping Summary Report* is available on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>).

27.7.2.1.4 Other Scoping Period Outreach

During the first scoping period, UDOT met with the following stakeholders to inform them about the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS and obtain input on issues important to their interests:

- Snowbird ski resort, March 21, 2018
- Alta ski resort, March 27, 2018
- Canyon Trail Users, March 28, 2018
- Cottonwood Heights residents, March 29, 2018
- Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, April 4, 2018
- Save Our Canyons, April 4, 2018 (this meeting included members of the following organizations: Friends of Alta, League of Women Voters, Salt Lake City Alliance, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, Salt Lake County Planning, Sierra Club, Utah Native Plants, Utahns for Better Transportation, Wasatch Alta Club, Wasatch Backcountry Alliance, and Wild Utah Project)
- Granite Community neighborhood, April 25, 2018

27.7.2.2 Scoping Periods for the Second and Third (March 5 and May 15, 2019) NOIs

27.7.2.2.1 Notifications

The scoping period for the second NOI was initiated with the Federal Register notice on March 5, 2019, and was planned to end on May 3, 2019. With the release of the third NOI on May 15, 2019, the end of this scoping period was extended to June 14, 2019. The following methods were used to notify the general public of the public scoping meeting and activities:

- Advertisements were placed in the following publications:
 - *Deseret News*, March 26 and April 2, 2019
 - *The Salt Lake Tribune*, March 26 and April 2, 2019
- Information regarding the public meeting and the scoping period was posted on the S.R. 210 Project website and UDOT social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) on March 18; April 8, 9, 10, 23, 25, and 26; May 17, 21, and 29; and June 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2019.
- Email notices were sent to the UDOT mailing list on March 10, April 23, May 15, and June 14, 2019.

27.7.2.2.2 Public Scoping Meeting

UDOT held a public scoping meeting on April 9, 2019, at the Cottonwood Heights City offices in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. The meeting was held in an open-house format with an interactive workshop from 4 PM to 8 PM.

The public scoping meeting included the following elements related to the EIS:

- The public was encouraged but not required to sign in at the registration desk.
- On entering the meeting room, each participant was given a brief explanation of the meeting format, information about how to submit comments, and details about where to find additional information about the project.
- Comment sheets were made available to each participant.
- Participants were encouraged to leave their comments.
- A project video summarizing the project was running continuously.
- Project staff members were available to answer questions and provide information.
- Four stations were set up with scroll maps of the project area. The scroll maps presented preliminary concepts that would address identified needs related to mobility, avalanche risk, and trailhead parking. Meeting participants were encouraged to make notes on the maps regarding issues and concerns related to the project study area and the preliminary concepts.
- Two computer stations were available for commenters to identify specific areas on a map and record their comment.
- Commenters could give comments via a video interview.

About 400 people attended the second public scoping meeting. During the second scoping period, UDOT received more than 1,100 individual comment submissions from the public and agencies. The majority of the comments were related to alternatives for reducing congestion, improving the transit system, providing parking, and increasing safety for motorists and cyclists. Several comments expressed concern for natural resources and water quality in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Many commenters were concerned about impacts to neighborhoods along Wasatch Boulevard.

27.7.2.2.3 2019 Scoping Summary Report

UDOT prepared a *Scoping Summary Report* summarizing the public and agency input that was gathered during the second scoping period, which ran from March 5 through June 14, 2019. The *2019 Scoping Summary Report* summarizes the agency and public scoping activities and comments received, and the report's appendices contain all scoping materials, including the meeting sign-in sheet, fact sheet, display boards, and copies of comments received during the 2019 scoping period. The *2019 Scoping Summary Report* is available on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>).

27.7.2.2.4 Other Scoping Period Outreach

In January 2019, prior to the start of the 2019 scoping period, UDOT met with the following stakeholders to inform them about the revised NOI for the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS and obtain input on issues important to their interests:

- Alta ski resort, January 8, 2019
- Town of Alta, January 8, 2019
- Big Cottonwood Community Council, January 9, 2019
- Cottonwood Heights residents, January 9, 2019
- Salt Lake City Public Utilities, January 9, 2019
- Snowbird ski resort, January 9, 2019
- Granite Community residents, January 15, 2019
- Save Our Canyons, January 16, 2019 (this meeting included members of the following organizations: League of Women Voters, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, Sierra Club, Utahns for Better Transportation, Wasatch Backcountry Alliance, and Wild Utah Project)

27.7.3 Purpose and Need Public Review and Comment Periods

27.7.3.1 March 11, 2019, Purpose and Need Statement

The statute at 23 USC Section 139 requires an opportunity for the public and agencies to help develop a project's purpose and need statement. On March 11, 2019, as part of the second (March 5, 2019) scoping period, UDOT published a draft of the project purpose and need statement for review by the agencies and the public through June 17, 2019. Members of the public and agencies were encouraged to provide comments by email, on the project website, and by postal mail.

27.7.3.2 November 4, 2019, Purpose and Need Statement

Based on comments received on the March 11, 2019, purpose and need statement and the revised scope of the project described in the third (May 15, 2019) NOI, UDOT revised the purpose and need statement. The revised purpose and need statement was posted on the project website on November 6, 2019. A notice about the comment period for the revised purpose and need statement was sent to the public on November 6, 2019. The notification provided a link to the document on the project website, an overview of the project purpose and need, and a reminder that comments were due by December 13, 2019. About 350 comments were received during the comment period.

Following the comment period, UDOT published a Frequently Asked Questions and Responses document on the project website along with the comments received. Comments focused on expanding the project to include Big Cottonwood Canyon, the purpose being too narrowly focused, and statements that the project purpose should include protecting environmental resources.

27.7.4 Alternatives Development Process

27.7.4.1 Public Review and Comment Periods for the Alternatives Development and Screening Methodology Report

27.7.4.1.1 March 11, 2019, Alternatives Screening Methodology Report

According to 23 USC Section 139, the public must be provided the opportunity to help define the range of alternatives. On March 11, 2019, UDOT published a draft of the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report* for review by the agencies and the public through June 14, 2019. Members of the public and agencies were encouraged to provide comments by email, on the project website, and by postal mail. The comments were provided as part of the scoping comment period from March 5, 2019, through June 14, 2019.

27.7.4.1.2 November 4, 2019, Alternatives Screening Methodology Report

Based on comments received on the March 11, 2019, *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report* and the revised scope of the project described in the third (May 15, 2019) NOI, UDOT revised the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*. A notice about the comment period for the revised report was sent to the public on November 6, 2019. The notification provided a link to the document on the project website, an overview of the project's purpose and need, and a reminder that comments were due on December 13, 2019. About 350 comments were received during the comment period. Following the comment period, a Frequently Asked Questions and Responses document was published on the project website along with the comments received.

Comments stated that the alternatives screening criteria should include protecting natural resources including evaluating impacts to the watershed, wildlife, natural habitats, and air quality. Others commented that the screening criteria should include a visitor capacity analysis to determine the number of people that the resources in the Little Cottonwood Canyon can receive before resources become seriously degraded. The commenters said that, by determining the canyon's carrying capacity, the alternatives could be developed to avoid impacts to the watershed and other natural resources.

27.7.4.1.3 Public Review and Comment Period for the Alternatives Screening Report

Based on the alternatives suggested by the public and agencies during the scoping periods, the review of the purpose and need statement, and the review of the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*, UDOT conducted an alternatives development and screening process. The results of this process were published in the *Alternatives Screening Report* for agency and public review on June 8, 2020. The review and comment period was from June 8 through July 10, 2020. The following methods were used to notify the general public of the release of the *Alternatives Screening Report* and the associated public meetings as follows:

- Advertisements were placed in the following publications:
 - *Deseret News*, June 8 and June 15, 2020.
 - *The Salt Lake Tribune*, June 8 and June 15, 2020
- Information regarding the public meeting and the scoping period was posted on the S.R. 210 Project website and UDOT social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) on June 4 and June 8, 2020.
- Email notices were sent to the UDOT mailing list on June 4, June 8, and June 15, 2020.
- A UDOT press release was sent to local media outlets on June 4, 2020, as a reminder of the public meetings on June 22, 23, and 24, 2020.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, UDOT altered the format of the public meetings to follow social distancing guidelines as follows:

- **June 22, 2020: Virtual online meeting from 6 to 8 PM.** Notification about the meeting and participant guidelines were posted on the project website and social media and were emailed on June 15, 19, and 22, 2020. The meeting format was a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. About 190 people attended this online meeting, and about 193 comments or discussion topics were submitted during the meeting. UDOT responded to as many of the comments as possible before the meeting ended at 8 PM.
- **June 23, 2020: Virtual online meeting from 6 to 8 PM.** Notification about the meeting and participant guidelines were posted on the project website and social media and were emailed on June 15, 19, and 23, 2020. The meeting format was a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. About 100 people attended this online meeting, and about 344 comments or discussion topics were submitted during the meeting. UDOT responded to as many of the comments as possible before the meeting ended at 8 PM.
- **June 24, 2020: In-person meeting from 6 to 8 PM.** This meeting was held for members of the public who did not have internet access. Notification about the meeting and participant guidelines were posted the project website and social media and were emailed on June 15 and 19, 2020. Attendees needed to make reservations prior to the meeting, and the meeting was limited to 50 people. The meeting format was a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. Two people attended the meeting.

About 295 people attended the three public meetings. During the comment period for the *Alternatives Screening Report*, UDOT received about 6,500 individual comment submissions from the public and agencies. The majority of the comments were related to the need for transportation improvements, visual impacts, water quality impacts, overcrowding in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and year-round access. Commenters also provided comments relating to support for or opposition to a specific alternative, concerns about tolling, the need for summer transit service, and statements that a visitor capacity analysis should be conducted. Some commenters provided additional alternatives for UDOT to consider.

In addition to the public meetings held during the 35-day public review period for the *Alternatives Screening Report*, UDOT met with the following stakeholders through online meetings to present the findings of the report:

- Utah Office of Tourism, June 4, 2020
- Business community representatives, June 8, 2020
- Town of Brighton, June 9, 2020
- Alta, Brighton, Solitude and Snowbird Ski Resorts, June 12, 2020
- Central Wasatch Commission Board, June 15, 2020
- Save Our Canyons Coalition, June 15, 2020
- Lower Little Cottonwood Canyon Businesses/Access, June 16, 2020
- Sandy City Council, June 16, 2020
- Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, June 19, 2020
- Town of Alta staff, June 24, 2020
- Cottonwood Heights/Granite residents, June 29, 2020
- Salt Lake County Council, June 30, 2020
- Granite Community Council, July 2, 2020
- Cottonwood Heights City Council, July 7, 2020
- Salt Lake City Council, July 7, 2020
- Town of Alta Council, July 8, 2020
- Holladay City Council, July 9, 2020

On September 20, 2020, all comments received during the comment period and a Frequently Asked Questions and Responses document were published on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>). An email announcing the availability of the comments and frequently asked questions was sent to agencies and the public, and notifications were posted on social media.

27.7.4.2 Alternatives Screening Report Addendum

During the public comment period for the June 8, 2020, *Alternatives Screening Report*, UDOT identified several new alternatives that should be put through the screening process. As a result, UDOT prepared an *Alternatives Screening Report Addendum*. The addendum was placed on the project website (<https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>) on November 20, 2020. A public email notification was sent to the project email database announcing that the addendum was available.

27.7.5 USDA Forest Service Amendment Process

On April 23, 2021, the USDA Forest Service published a notice that the Forest Service might need to make a decision to authorize the use of National Forest System land outside the right of way to be appropriated by FHWA and to amend the *Revised Forest Plan: Wasatch-Cache National Forest* (USDA Forest Service 2003) for that use if the use is inconsistent with the current *Forest Plan* (Federal Register Vol. 86, No. 77, page 21683).

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, UDOT placed a legal advertisement in *The Salt Lake Tribune* and the *Deseret News* (April 23, 2021, and April 25, 2021), and UDOT sent an email to the project email database announcing the notice (April 23, 2021). The notice was also made available on the project website and posted on UDOT’s social media channels.

27.7.6 Draft EIS Outreach and Public Hearings

In compliance with NEPA, the Little Cottonwood Canyon Draft EIS was released for public review and comment in June 2021. Notice of availability for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on June 25, 2021 (see 86 Federal Register 33705). Paper copies of the Draft EIS were distributed to local libraries, municipal buildings, and local copy centers. See Table 27.7-1 for a list of distribution locations where the Draft EIS was made available to the public for review. The Draft EIS was also posted on the project website. Fact sheets were developed that summarized sections of the Draft EIS and were distributed to the media, local government officials, and the public. The availability of the Draft EIS was announced using local media outlets, electronic distribution methods, and printed collateral materials through the following methods:

- Advertisements were placed in the following publications:
 - *Deseret News*, June 25 and July 9, 2021
 - *The Salt Lake Tribune*, June 27 and July 11, 2021
- Email notices were sent to the UDOT mailing list on June 25 and 29; July 6, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, and 30; August 9, 20, and 30; and September 2, 2021.
- Information regarding the Draft EIS, public hearings, and the comment period was posted on the S.R. 210 Project website and UDOT social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) on June 25 and 26; July 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 30; August 9, 20, 23, 25, and 30; and September 2 and 3, 2021.
- A UDOT press release was sent to local media outlets on June 25, 2021.

Table 27.7-1. Public Review Locations for the Draft EIS

Name	Address
Whitmore Library	2197 Fort Union Boulevard, Cottonwood Heights
Anderson-Foothill Library	1135 South 2100 East, Salt Lake City
Viridian West Jordan Library	8030 South 1825 West, West Jordan
Cottonwood Heights City Building	2277 Bengal Boulevard, Cottonwood Heights
Utah Department of Transportation	4501 South 2700 West, Salt Lake City

The official comment period initially extended from June 25, 2021, to August 9, 2021, but was extended to September 3, 2021, at the request of several Cities and nongovernmental organizations. Notice of the extended comment period was published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2021 (see 86 Federal Register 39018). The total Draft EIS comment period was 70 days. The public had the opportunity to comment using a variety of methods. Official comments were accepted by postal mail, email, comment form, comment postcard, oral testimony to a court reporter, or the project telephone comment line. During the Draft EIS comment period, UDOT received about 13,400 submissions from the public and agencies.

UDOT held two public hearings in July 2021 that had about 550 total attendees.

- An in-person public open house and hearing was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, from 4:30 to 8:30 PM at Butler Middle School at 7530 South 2700 East in Cottonwood Heights. Attendees had the opportunity to provide official comments using comment forms, by individually speaking to a court reporter, or making verbal comments to a hearing panel, which were captured by a court reporter.
- A virtual public hearing was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom with comments documented by a court reporter. The virtual public hearing was held in this format to accommodate those concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Draft EIS notice of availability, notice of Draft EIS comment period extension, public hearing legal notices, public advertisements and press releases, email and social media notifications and reminders, sign-in sheets, and the materials presented at the public hearings are provided in Appendix 27A, *Public Hearing Notices and Materials*. Comments received at the public hearings are summarized and the responses provided in Chapter 32, *Response to Comments*.

In addition to the public hearings held during the 70-day public review period for the Draft EIS, UDOT met with the following stakeholders through online meetings to present information on the detailed analysis:

- Association of Community Councils, July 8, 2021
- Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, August 4, 2021
- Cottonwood Heights City Council, July 20, 2021
- Snowbird Ski Resort, July 6 and August 20, 2021
- Salt Lake County Council, August 17, 2021
- Town of Alta Council, July 14, 2021
- Central Wasatch Commission, July 12 and 21, 2021
- Granite Community Council, August 4, 2021
- Sandy City Council, July 27, 2021

27.7.7 Chapter 26: Revised Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation Public Review

Following the Draft EIS comment period, and based on public comments and further consideration of the facts and circumstances, UDOT and the USDA Forest Service determined that it would be appropriate to combine two recreation resources that had been evaluated separately into a single Section 4(f) recreation resource and to further delineate and characterize the resulting Section 4(f) property and related impact analysis. In light of this development, UDOT decided to prepare a revised version of Draft EIS Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation (Chapter 26 of the Draft EIS) for public review and comment. The public comment period was for 30 days from December 10, 2021, to January 10, 2022. To notify the public, UDOT placed legal advertisements in the *Deseret News* and *The Salt Lake Tribune* on December 10, 2021, and

December 12, 2021, and sent out a notification email to UDOT's mailing list on December 10, 2021. Information regarding the public review period was also posted on the S.R. 210 Project website and UDOT's social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). UDOT received about 860 comments on the revised chapter. Legal notices for review of a revised Draft EIS Chapter 26, *Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation*, are available in Appendix 27B, *Revised Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation Public Review Notices*, of this Final EIS.

27.7.8 Other Public Outreach

Additional outreach activities have been occurring throughout the EIS process; some examples are listed below.

- **Social media.** UDOT provided project updates and posted notifications of public meetings and comment periods on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram in order to reach members of the public who do not receive email notifications.
- **Frequently asked questions and public comments.** At the end of the two scoping periods, the comment period for the purpose and need statement and the *Alternatives Screening Methodology Report*, and comment period for the *Alternatives Screening Report*, UDOT posted all public comments received. UDOT also produced a response document to frequently asked questions during each comment period. Emails were sent notifying the public when the materials were posted on the project website.
- **Scoping summary reports posted on the project website.** In July 2018 and September 2019, UDOT posted the *Scoping Summary Report* for each scoping period and sent an email to the project email list to notify stakeholders that the report was available for review.
- **Notices of Intent.** All three NOIs were posted on the project website.
- **Open-house materials.** Materials used in the scoping open houses and in the release of the *Alternatives Screening Report* were posted on the project website.
- **Stakeholder meetings.** At key project milestones, UDOT held meetings with various stakeholder groups to provide a project update and share information about the information released at that milestone. Table 27.7-2 summarizes these meetings.

Table 27.7-2. Stakeholder Meetings at Key Project Milestones

Stakeholder or Project Milestone	Scoping Period	Scoping Period, Purpose and Need Statement, and Alternatives Screening Methodology Report	Revised Purpose and Need Statement and Revised Alternatives Screening Methodology Report	Draft Alternatives Screening Report	Draft EIS
Project Milestones					
Public engagement period	3/9/2018–5/14/2018	3/5/2019–6/14/2019	11/4/2019–12/13/2019	6/4/2020–7/10/2020	6/25/2021–9/3/2021
Agency coordination meeting	4/9/2018	4/3/2019	10/30/2019	6/4/2020 8/19/2020	
Stakeholders					
Salt Lake County Council	4/24/2018	6/11/2019		6/30/2020	8/17/2021
Town of Alta			12/10/2019		
Town of Brighton		1/9/2019	11/14/2019	6/9/2020	
Alta Town Council	4/12/2018	4/11/2019	11/13/2019	7/8/2020	7/14/2021
Cottonwood Heights City Council	4/24/2018	4/2/2019	11/19/2019	7/7/2020	7/20/2021
Granite Community Council		3/6/2019	11/6/2019 11/20/2019	7/2/2020	8/4/2021
Holladay City Council				7/9/2020	
Salt Lake City Council		6/11/2019		7/7/2020	
Salt Lake City Dept. of Public Utilities			11/19/2020	6/19/2020	
Sandy City Council	4/17/2018	4/23/2019	12/10/2019	6/16/2020	7/27/2021
Central Wasatch Commission	3/28/2018	4/17/2019 5/6/2019	11/18/2019	6/15/2020	7/12/2021 7/21/2021
Friends of Alta	4/4/2018			6/15/2020	
League Women of Voters	4/4/2018			6/15/2020	
Lower Little Cottonwood Canyon Businesses/Access	3/30/2018	4/30/2019	11/26/2019	6/16/2020	
Mountainous Planning Commission			12/5/2019	8/6/2020	
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance	4/4/2018	5/1/2019		5/7/2020 6/15/2020 8/21/2020	11/5/2021
Save Our Canyons Coalition	4/4/2018		11/13/2019	6/15/2020	
Utahns for Better Transportation	4/4/2018			6/15/2020	

(continued on next page)

Table 27.7-2. Stakeholder Meetings at Key Project Milestones

Stakeholder or Project Milestone	Scoping Period	Scoping Period, Purpose and Need Statement, and Alternatives Screening Methodology Report	Revised Purpose and Need Statement and Revised Alternatives Screening Methodology Report	Draft Alternatives Screening Report	Draft EIS
Wasatch Backcountry Alliance	4/4/2018			4/14/2020 6/15/2020	5/19/2021
Wasatch Mountain Club	4/4/2018			6/15/2020	
Cottonwood Heights residents	3/29/2018	4/8/2020	11/13/2019 11/25/2019	6/29/2020	
Granite Community residents	3/29/2018		11/18/2019	6/29/2020	8/4/2021
Alta ski resort	3/27/2018	1/8/2019	12/2/2019	6/12/2020	7/8/2021
Brighton ski resort			12/2/2019	6/12/2020	
Snowbird ski resort	3/26/2018	1/9/2019	12/2/2019	6/12/2020	7/6/2021 8/20/2021 9/7/2021
Solitude ski resort			12/2/2019	6/12/2020	

27.8 Project Website

The S.R. 210 Project website, <https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov>, is accessible through the navigation menu on the home page of UDOT’s website. The project website allows the public to view current project information. The website provides all project-related materials and is updated periodically as new information becomes available. Comments can be submitted to the project’s public involvement coordinator through the website at any time.

27.9 References

[FHWA] Federal Highway Administration

1987 Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents. October.

[USDA Forest Service] U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

2003 Revised Forest Plan: Wasatch-Cache National Forest. South Jordan, Utah: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/uwcnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5076923&width=full>.

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