

# I-15 MP 11 INTERCHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

## COORDINATION PLAN

I-15 Milepost 11 Environmental Impact Statement

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

March 2019



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## Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of this Coordination Plan

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) is the lead agency responsible for preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study and evaluate potential transportation solutions at Interstate 15 (I-15)/Green Spring Drive Interchange (Exit 10) and the surrounding roadway system in Washington City within Washington County, Utah. Accordingly, compliance with Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU; Public Law 109-059), codified as Section 139 of amended Chapter 1 of Title 23, United States Code (23 USC § 139), requires preparation of a coordination plan for all projects which an EIS is being prepared.

The purpose of this coordination plan is communicate the process in which the lead agency (UDOT) will coordinate public and agency participation and gather comments during this study. This plan may be updated periodically to reflect schedule updates and other changes. In general, this coordination plan:

- Identifies lead, participating, and cooperating agencies
- Describes the agency coordination and consultation process
- Identifies opportunities for public involvement
- Describes project communication methods
- Describes the public meetings to be held, likely information to be presented at each meeting, along with anticipated dates and locations
- Establishes a schedule for completion of the environmental review process

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by UDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated January 17, 2017, and executed by FHWA and UDOT.

### 1.2 Project Overview

The environmental review process for this project began in the summer of 2017. An information meeting was held August 29, 2017 to gather public input related to the transportation needs within the study area and inform the community of the environmental process. Based on community concerns regarding potential outcomes of this study, UDOT decided the appropriate level of environmental review needed for this project would be best provided by proceeding with an EIS.

The proposed project study area extends east and west along I-15 between the I-15/Green Spring Drive Interchange (Exit 10) and I-15/Washington Parkway Interchange (Exit 13). The extent of the proposed study area is generally bound by Buena Vista Boulevard to the north and Telegraph Street to the south (see Figure 1). The proposed logical termini for this study are I-15 Exit 10 and Exit 13, as well as Buena Vista Boulevard, and Telegraph Street. Each of these streets are major arterials that provide north-south and east-west travel within the study area.

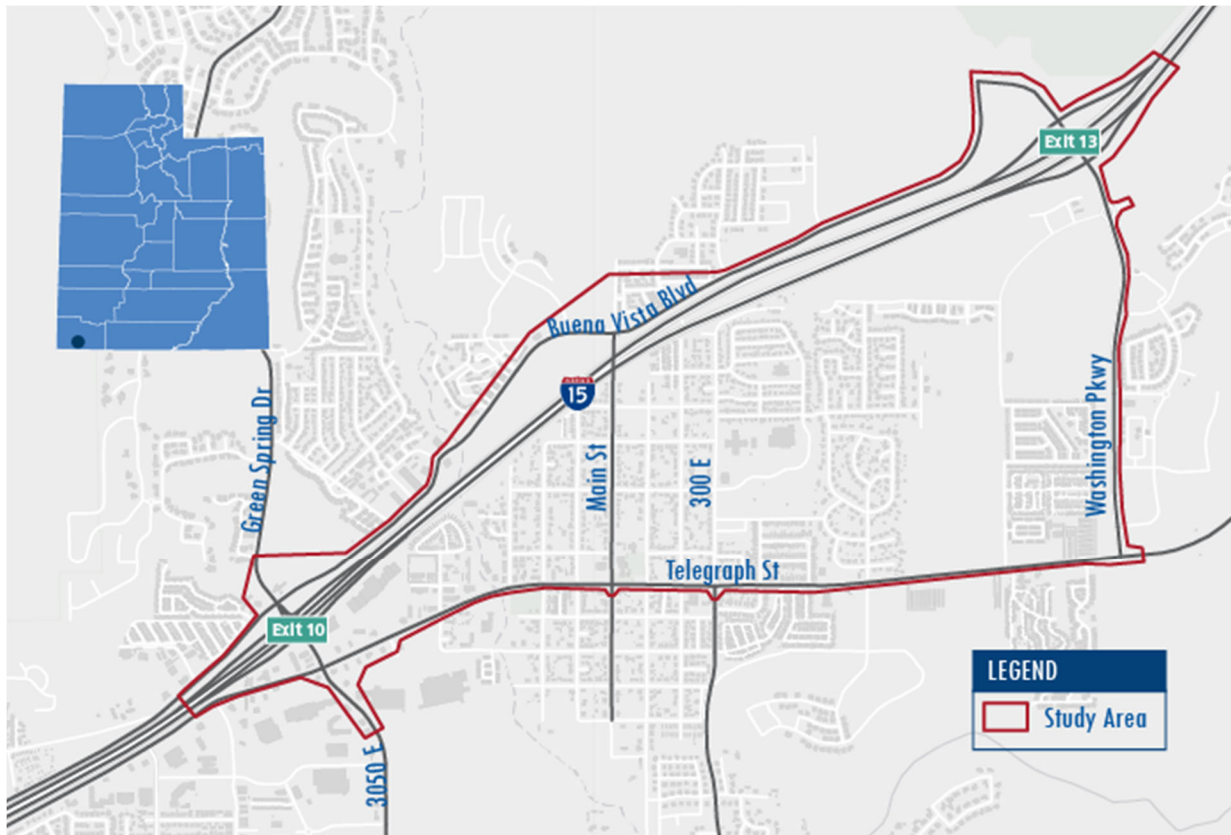


Figure 1. Study Area

As part of the EIS, UDOT will consider a range of alternatives based on the purpose and need of the project and taking into account agency and public input. The currently contemplated alternatives include: (1) taking no action (no-build); (2) making the existing system operate more efficiently; (3) adding capacity to the system; (4) dispersing of traffic more evenly throughout the system; (5) reducing traffic in the system; (6) combinations of any of the above; and (7) other reasonable alternatives if identified during the scoping process. Alternatives will be refined based on input from agencies and the public during the initial coordination/scoping period and agency and public involvement opportunities. Alternatives that do not meet the project purpose and need or that are otherwise not reasonable will not be carried forward for detailed consideration.

## 2.0 Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies

### 2.1 Agencies Roles and Responsibilities

#### Lead Agency

Agency: UDOT  
Name: Kim Manwill  
Title: Project Manager  
Phone: 435-896-0733  
Email: kmanwill@utah.gov

Agency: UDOT  
Name: Elisa Albury  
Title: NEPA Program Oversight  
Phone: 801-834-5284  
Email: ealbury@utah.gov

As specified in the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Part 1501.5), lead agencies are responsible for supervising the preparation of the EIS. Lead agencies:

- Provide increased oversight in managing the process and resolving issues
- Identify and involve participating agencies
- Develop coordination plans
- Provide opportunities for public and participating agency involvement in defining the purpose of and need for the project and determining the range of alternatives
- Collaborate with participating agencies in determining methodologies and the level of detail for the analysis of alternatives
- Are responsible for project milestones, agency coordination, and scheduling

**Cooperating Agencies.** A cooperating agency is any federal, state, or local agency, other than a lead agency, that has special expertise or regulatory authority with respect to any environmental impact and that is requested by a lead agency to be a cooperating agency. Cooperating agencies share responsibility with the lead agencies for developing information and environmental analyses related to their respective areas of expertise. Every cooperating agency will also be a participating agency and share the responsibilities of participating agencies, including the responsibilities to participate in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time and to participate in the scoping process.

**Participating Agencies.** A participating agency is a federal, state, tribal, regional, or local government agency that has an interest in a project. Nongovernmental organizations and private entities cannot serve as participating agencies. Participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. A participating agency's role is to:

- Participate in the scoping process
- Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose of and need for the project, potential alternatives to be considered, and determination of methodologies and level of detail required for the alternatives analysis
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate
- Review and comment in a timely manner on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents
- Provide meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues



- Participate in meetings to resolve issues that could delay completion of the environmental review process or result in denial of approvals required for the project under applicable laws

See Table 1 for identification of lead, cooperating and participating agencies along with the point of contact.

Table 1: Agency Point of Contact

Agency	Role	Point of Contact
Utah Department of Transportation	Lead	Elisa Albury Title: NEPA Program Oversight Phone: 801-834-5284 Email: ealbury@utah.gov
Environmental Protection Agency	Participating	Philip Strobel Title: Region 8, NEPA Program Director Phone: 303-312-6704 Email: strobel.philip@epa.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Participating	Craig Brown Title: St. George Regulatory Project Manger Phone: 435-986-3979 Email: Craig.J.Brown@usace.army.mil
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Participating	Larry Crist Title: Utah Field Office Supervisor Phone: 801-975-3330 Email: larry_crist@fws.gov
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Participating	MaryAnn Naber Title: FHWA Liaison Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Phone: 202-517-0218 Email: MNABER@ACHP.GOV
Department of the Interior	Participating	Michaela Noble Title: Director Phone: 202-208-3891 Email:
Washington City	Participating	Mike Shaw Title: Public Works Director Phone: 435-656-6311 Email: mshaw@washington city.org
Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization	Participating	Myron Lee Title: Director Phone: 435-673-3548 Email: mlee@fivecounty.utah.gov
Cedar Band of Paiute Indians	Participating	Lora Tom Title: Band Chairwoman Phone: 435-586-9433 Email: lora.tom@ihs.gov
Hopi Tribe	Participating	Herman G. Honanie Title: Chairman Phone: 928-734-3102 Email: DHonanie@hopi.nsn.us



Agency	Role	Point of Contact
Indian Peaks Band of Paiute Indians	Participating	Jeanine Borchardt Title: Chairwoman Phone: 435-586-1112 Email: jeanine.borchardt@ihs.gov
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	Participating	Tami Slayton Title: Tribal Chairwoman Phone: 435-867-2659 Email: tslayton@utahpaiutes.org
Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians	Participating	Patrick Charles Title: Chairman Phone: 435-668-5169 Email: Patrick.charles@ihs.gov
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation	Participating	Luke Dunkin Title: Chairperson Phone: 435-722-5141 Email: shaunc@utetribe.com

## 3.0 Agency Coordination, Public Involvement, and Scheduling

### 3.1 Participating and Cooperating Agencies

The lead agency will ask the participating and cooperating agencies to submit comments during scoping that summarize their interests related to the study area. Following scoping, the lead agencies will coordinate with all appropriate agencies on the purpose and need for the project, alternatives development and screening, and methodologies for documenting environmental conditions and assessing impacts. Participating and cooperating agencies will be notified of the availability of the Draft and Final EIS documents and will be given appropriate comment opportunities (see Table 2 below). The lead agency will also coordinate with appropriate agencies to complete the necessary permits after the lead agency has issued their Record of Decision (ROD).

### 3.2 Public Involvement

Specific study elements will be directly influenced by public involvement. Public involvement will focus around the following four key processes

**Public Scoping** – Public scoping meetings will be used to identify concerns from a local perspective. During these meetings the importance of public input, via verbal or written comment, is heavily emphasized as a crucial element that helps the lead agency in developing a purpose and need, potential alternatives, and information for impacts analysis.

**Purpose and Need/Development of Alternatives** - The lead agency will use information gained through scoping to develop the purpose and need and a reasonable range of project alternatives. This information will be made available for review and comment through the public meetings and the project website. The public will also be able to review and comment on the criteria for screening the alternatives. All comments gathered will be considered by the lead agency when finalizing methodologies for the alternatives screening process and impact analysis. The lead agency will provide the proposed analysis methodologies to the participating agencies for their review.



**Completion of the Draft EIS.** The lead agency will publish a notice of availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register and in local newspapers. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of the Draft EIS. A public hearing will be held in support of the Draft EIS during the comment period. Cooperating and participating agencies will be included on the distribution list for the Draft EIS.

**Completion of the Final EIS and Issuance of the Record of Decision.** Per Section 1319 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the lead agency will release a combined Final EIS and ROD to cooperating and participating agencies and the public and will publish an NOA in the Federal Register.

The methods of communication that the lead agency will use with the public throughout the project are discussed in the public involvement plan (see Appendix A) and are summarized below:

- *Project Website* – The lead agency will develop a website for the project (<https://www.mp11.org/>) that will include project information, this coordination plan, an electronic comment form, and contact information. The information presented during the public meetings and the public hearing will be available on the website. The website will be updated as needed.
- *Project Hotline and Email* – A project hotline (435-477-6211) and email account ([info@mp11.org](mailto:info@mp11.org)) will be available to respond to stakeholder inquiries and concerns.
- *Project Newsletters* – Newsletters and fact sheets will be emailed by the lead agency to those that have signed up to be on the mailing list. The newsletters and fact sheets will also be available on the project website and at other public meetings or gatherings.

### 3.3 Scheduling

SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 states that, as part of the coordination plan, the federal lead agency may establish a schedule for completing the environmental review process for the project. The schedule should be developed in consultation with participating agencies and the lead agency. Table 2 summarizes key coordination milestone, timeframes for project milestones, and expected completion dates.

Table 2: Summary of Key Coordination Milestones

Milestone or Activity	Participant	Action	Expected Completion
Information Meeting	Lead agency and public	UDOT prepares for and holds initial public scoping meeting. UDOT requests public input during a <b>30-day comment period</b> .	8/29/2017 (Complete)
Early Agency Scoping Letters	Agencies	UDOT sends letters to agencies informing them of the environmental study and request agency input identifying potential resources or concerns in study area.	9/5/2017 (Complete)
Prepare Class of Action	Lead agency	UDOT Environmental Services initiates environmental review process as EIS with UDOT Deputy Director.	10/25/2017 (Complete)
Develop Draft Purpose and Need and Potential Range of Alternatives	Lead agency	UDOT uses information received during the early scoping phase to develop initial draft purpose and need statement and potential range of alternatives.	Spring and Summer 2018 (Complete)





Table 2: Summary of Key Coordination Milestones

Milestone or Activity	Participant	Action	Expected Completion
Notice of Intent (NOI)	Lead agency	UDOT prepares NOI and coordinates with FHWA on publishing the NOI to Federal Register.	August 2018 (Complete)
Invitation Letters to Participating and Cooperating Agencies	Lead agency	UDOT sends letters to federal, state, and local agencies to inform them the study is now an EIS, invites them to be participating/cooperating agencies.	August 2018 (Complete)
Public meeting	Lead cooperating, and participating agencies, interested stakeholders, and public	UDOT holds an open house meeting to gather comments on scoping, the draft purpose and need statement, potential range of alternatives, and alternatives to be carried forward for detail review in EIS. UDOT requests public input during a 30-day comment period.	August 2018 (Completed)
Scoping Report	Lead agency	UDOT prepares a report that summarizes scoping activities and comments.	Fall 2018 (Complete)
Analyze Environmental Impacts and Identify Preferred Alternative	Lead, participating, and cooperating agencies	UDOT characterizes environmental conditions and analyzes environmental effects of project alternatives. Prepare Draft EIS identifying the Preferred Alternative.	Fall 2018 (Complete)
Agency Input on Purpose and Need, range of Alternatives, and screening methodology	Lead, participating, and cooperating agencies, and public	UDOT provides draft Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need and draft Chapter 2 – Alternatives for participating and cooperating agency review, and comment. Request response within 30 days of receipt.	January 2019 (Complete)
Draft EIS Public Comment Period and Hearing	Lead, participating, and cooperating agencies, and public	UDOT publish a Draft EIS Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. UDOT holds a public hearing on the Draft EIS and seek input during a 45-day comment period.	March 2019
Compile and Respond to Comments Draft EIS	Lead agency	UDOT compiles, categorizes, and responds to comments received on the Draft EIS.	Spring 2019
Prepare Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)	Lead agency	UDOT prepares the Final EIS and ROD, which includes responses to comments.	Spring 2019
Release Final EIS and ROD	Lead agency	UDOT releases the Final EIS and ROD with the NOA in the Federal Register.	Summer 2019



## 4.0 Additional Agency Coordination

### 4.1 Project Development

In addition to the coordination necessary to meet the milestones described in this coordination plan, the lead agencies will engage in continued coordination with participating and cooperating agencies as necessary to discuss and/or resolve major issues early in the project development/environmental phase. These meetings might involve only one or several agencies having interest in a particular subject. The lead agencies will be responsible for documenting coordination in support of major decisions.

Supplemental agency coordination during the preparation of the EIS would also support successful securement of the necessary permits, license, and other approvals scheduled to occur after issuance of the ROD and prior to project construction.

### 4.2 Permits, Licenses, and Approvals

Coordination during project development would support obtaining other approvals needed for the NEPA process (for example, National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation and Endangered Species Act compliance). Coordination would also address the same issues and concerns that regulatory agencies normally consider as part of necessary permit, license, and other approval processes that would take place after issuance of a ROD. For example, by working closely with USACE during the NEPA process, UDOT would ensure that necessary future permitting actions taken by USACE could rely on the work done as part of the EIS. This coordination would enable UDOT to address subjects that are important to USACE and would allow USACE to more efficiently process a Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization.

Table 3 summarizes the permits, license, and approval that might be needed to support the project if an action alternative were selected. Because the needed permits, licenses, and approvals would depend on the types of resources that could be affected by a specific action alternative, the final list of permits, licenses, and approvals would be developed once UDOT selects a preferred alternative.

Table 3: Government Approvals and/or Regulatory Permits

Basis	Permit or Approval	Agency or Government Entity with Jurisdiction
New Interchange on I-15	Interchange Access Change Request	FHWA
Air Quality	Air Quality Approval Order	UDEQ/DAQ
Air Quality	Fugitive Dust Emission Control Plan	UDEQ/DAQ
Noise	Temporary Noise Permits	Washington County Health Department and Washington City
Water Resources	UPDES General Permit for Construction Activities	UDEQ/DWQ
Water Resources	UPDES Construction Dewatering and Hydrostatic Testing	UDEQ/DWQ
Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	Nationwide 14 Permit	USACE
Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	Stream Alteration Permit and the jointly obtained U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Programmatic General Permit 10 (PGP 10)	UDWR/ USACE



## 5.0 Issue Identification and Resolution

When needed, conflict resolution between agencies regarding the EIS process would be resolved through a standard dispute-resolution ladder. If staff at the lead agency and the cooperating and participating resource agencies need assistance in resolving disputes, they would refer the dispute to their supervisors. Resolution efforts would continue up the chain of command at each agency until the dispute can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

## 6.0 Coordination Plan Revision History

Table 3: Coordination Plan Revisions

Revision	Date	Completed By	Description of Update
1	12/06/18	Horrocks Engineers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Updated <i>Figure 1: Study Area</i> to match the figure within the environmental document.</li><li>2) No agency responses were received to become a cooperating agency. Therefore, in accordance with Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, the invited cooperating agencies were designated as participating agencies. <i>Table 1: Agency Point of Contact</i> was updated accordingly.</li><li>3) Non respondent agencies and government entities invited to be participating agencies were deleted from <i>Table 1: Agency Point of Contact</i>.</li><li>4) Added Table 3 to show potential government approvals and/or permits that may be needed if an alternative is selected.</li></ol>
2	12/19/18	Horrocks Engineers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Inserted Native American Tribes to <i>Table 1: Agency Point of Contact</i> to match language in EIS document.</li></ol>
3	03/04/19	Horrocks Engineers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Updated contact info in <i>Table 1: Agency Point of Contact</i></li><li>2) Updated dates within <i>Table 2: Summary of Key Coordination Milestones</i>.</li></ol>