Chapter 5: Coordination

This chapter describes the public and agency coordination efforts for the Parley’s Interchange Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Parley’s Interchange EIS process was initiated on February 9, 2018, when a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register formally announcing that the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) was preparing an EIS for the Interstate 80/Interstate 215 Parley’s Interchange Project. The notice included a brief description of the proposed improvements and alternatives under consideration by UDOT.

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 the highway system, this agency is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Many of the consultation requirements described in this chapter are required of federal agencies such as FHWA when preparing an EIS.

UDOT has been assigned the authority to carry out FHWA’s responsibility under NEPA. As the lead agency, UDOT is responsible for preparing the Parley’s Interchange EIS. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this action are being, or have been, carried out by UDOT pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) Section 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated January 17, 2017, and executed by FHWA and UDOT.

5.1 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 Parley’s Interchange EIS involved extensive coordination and consultation with the affected community, agencies, and other stakeholders. The affected community includes not only the residents and businesses in the Parley’s interchange study area but also land owners, individuals, groups, tribes, and others interested in the 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.
5.1.1 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 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.

5.1.2 Outreach Compliance with Federal Laws

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

5.2 Initial Coordination

5.2.1 Notice of Intent

UDOT prepared a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. The Notice of Intent is a requirement of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1501.7 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 Notice of Intent 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.

UDOT submitted the Notice of Intent to FHWA for publication in the Federal Register, and the Notice of Intent was included in the Federal Register on February 9, 2018.

What is scoping?

Scoping is the formal early coordination process required by CEQ’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.
5.3 **Agency Coordination**

Throughout the EIS process, UDOT coordinated with local, state, and federal agencies that oversee the management of natural resources in the 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.

The agencies were notified of the requirements of 23 USC Section 139 at the agency scoping meeting that was held in Salt Lake City on February 27, 2018. The preparation of this EIS meets the intent of this law by reaching out to agencies and giving them an opportunity to provide input into and collaborate on the processes of defining the project purpose and need and identifying potential alternatives.

5.3.1 **Coordination Plan**

The purpose of the *Parley's Interchange 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 Parley’s Interchange 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 5.4.2.2, Public Scoping Meeting).

5.3.2 **Identification of Participating and Cooperating Agencies**

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

In addition, federal and non-federal 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 local, state, and federal agencies and organizations (referred to as non-participating agencies and organizations) were contacted as necessary to obtain information about the project area and any issues or concerns they might have.
5.3.2.1 Cooperating Agencies

A cooperating agency is defined in 40 CFR Section 1508.5 of CEQ’s NEPA regulations as 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. Their selection and responsibilities are defined in 40 CFR Section 1501.6. All cooperating agencies are participating agencies by definition.

UDOT sent invitation letters to five federal agencies (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management) and one local agency (Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities) on January 29, 2018, inviting them to be either a cooperating agency or a participating agency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, and the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities were the only agencies to accept the invitation to be a cooperating agency.

5.3.2.2 Participating Agencies

A participating agency is defined as a federal or non-federal agency “that might have an interest in the project.” The selection and responsibilities for participating agencies are also 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 and the range of alternatives considered as well as the Coordination Plan and the schedule for the project. Participating agencies are not necessarily also cooperating agencies.

On January 29, 2018, UDOT sent invitation letters to the 6 agencies listed in Section 5.3.2.1, Cooperating Agencies, as well as 25 additional federal and 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, 18 accepted the invitation. The participating agencies are:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Utah Division of Air Quality
- Utah Division of Indian Affairs
- Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy
- Utah Transit Authority
- Wasatch Front Regional Council
- Salt Lake County
- Summit County
- Millcreek
- Salt Lake City
- Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
5.3.2.3 Tribes

Because of the potential for cultural resources near the Parley’s interchange study area, invitations to be participating agencies were sent to the Cedar Band of Paiutes, 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.

5.3.3 Agency Scoping

On January 29, 2018, UDOT sent invitation letters to the agencies listed in Section 5.3.2.1, Cooperating Agencies, as well as 25 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 February 27, 2018. These letters invited agency representatives to attend the meeting, requested agency involvement as a cooperating or participating agency for the Parley’s Interchange EIS, and solicited agency comments on the resources in the project study area. In addition, the tribes listed in Section 5.3.2.3, Tribes, were invited to the agency scoping meeting. The following agencies attended the meeting:

- Millcreek
- Salt Lake City
- Summit County
- Utah Division of Parks and Recreation – Land and Water Conservation Fund Coordinator
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- 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 Parley’s interchange. 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 Parley’s Interchange Scoping Summary Report, which is available on the project website (https://www.parleyseis.com).
5.3.4 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.

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

The statute at 23 USC Section 139 requires an opportunity for cooperating and participating agencies to help develop the project’s purpose and need statement. On April 25, 2018, UDOT published a draft of the project purpose and need document for review by the agencies and the public through May 25, 2018. 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 document.

The draft purpose and need document was also discussed at the agency scoping meeting on February 27, 2019; at Stakeholder Working Group meetings on March 1, 2018; and at the public scoping meeting on March 6, 2018.

5.3.4.2 Opportunities for the Cooperating and Participating Agencies to Help Define the Range of Alternatives

The statute at 23 USC Section 139 requires the lead agency to provide an opportunity for cooperating and participating agencies to help define the range of alternatives. In addition, the lead agency must determine, in collaboration with the cooperating and participating agencies, the appropriate methodologies to be used and the level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives. Accordingly, the lead agency must work cooperatively and interactively with the cooperating and participating agencies on the methodology and level of detail to be used in a particular analysis.

On April 25, 2018, UDOT sent representatives of the cooperating and participating agencies an Alternatives-Development and Screening Methodology Report (UDOT 2018d) for their review and comment. The report described the alternatives-screening process. Millcreek, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, and the Wasatch Front Regional Council provided comments on the report. UDOT worked with these agencies to address their concerns and revised the report based on their comments.

During the EIS scoping phase, UDOT requested input from the agencies regarding alternatives that should be considered in the EIS. At the agency scoping meeting of February 27, 2018, the agencies suggested looking at alternatives that minimized impacts to trails and considered transit options.

To seek further input on potential alternatives, UDOT held an alternatives-development comment period to allow agencies and the public to comment on the preliminary alternatives developed by UDOT. To inform the participating agencies about the comment period, UDOT sent the agencies an email on June 26, 2018, inviting them to review the preliminary alternatives at an open house or on the public website. Comments on the preliminary alternatives were requested by August 10, 2018. Millcreek, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, and the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy provided comments on the preliminary alternatives. UDOT worked with these agencies to address their comments about the preliminary alternatives.
After screening the alternatives, UDOT prepared an Alternatives Screening Report (UDOT 2019a), which described the alternatives-screening process and the results of the screening analysis. The report was released to the public and agencies in May 2019.

5.3.4.3   Meetings with Millcreek, Salt Lake City, and Salt Lake County Councils

UDOT made presentations to Millcreek, Salt Lake City, and Salt Lake County at council meetings in February and July 2018. The purposes of these meetings were to discuss the purpose of and need for the project, the screening methodology, and the alternatives that should be evaluated in the EIS.

Before the release of the Alternatives Screening Report in May 2019, UDOT met with Millcreek on May 14, 2019, to discuss the results of the screening process and the preliminary findings of the EIS process.

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

The National Historic Preservation Act was enacted to assess impacts to historical and archaeological resources that could be affected by undertakings involving federal agencies. The act requires federal agencies that fund, permit, or are otherwise involved in a project (for example, as a landowner) to consider the impacts that the undertaking would have on historic and archaeological resources.

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.

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 proposed alternatives. Agencies with direct jurisdiction over land within or adjacent to the proposed 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.

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:

- Salt Lake City CLG
- Salt Lake City Division Parks and Public Lands
- Sons of Utah Pioneers
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 proposed alternatives. To date, none of the above groups has identified any specific concerns in the project’s area of potential effects.

5.3.6 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 written notification and an invitation for consultation to the Cedar Band of Paiutes, 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.

UDOT has provided multiple written updates to the tribes listed above over the course of the Parley’s Interchange EIS process, informing them of the status and results of archaeological field inventories, the alternatives-screening process, and the Draft EIS. 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.
5.3.7 Environmental Justice Provider Coordination

A primary goal of environmental justice 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 in the Parley’s interchange study area, including any low-income or minority populations. Public agencies, social services, and non-profits organizations were contacted and interviewed to identify low-income, minority populations, and homeless populations in and around the environmental justice impact analysis area. This included outreach to the following programs that all currently provide services:

- Volunteers of America Homeless Outreach Team
- Salt Lake City Police Department Community Connection Center
- Housing Authority for the County of Salt Lake
- Salt Lake County Health Department

Other public involvement and outreach efforts included the following:

- **Public Meetings.** During the development of the Draft EIS, two different public meeting periods (scoping and alternatives development) were held adjacent to the interchange. Meetings were announced in local media outlets, through city websites, and through mailers to all owners of property within 0.25 mile of the interchange. UDOT had a Spanish-speaking translator at the public meetings.

- **Email Update List.** Members of the public who identified a preference for receiving project information by email were sent regular updates about the project. These updates notified recipients of new information on the project website, upcoming events, and major project milestones.

- **Telephone Comment Line.** A telephone comment line recorded phone 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 heavily advertised on all communication materials including fact sheets, newsletters, brochures, display advertisements, and information displays. Fliers and comment forms have contact information for Spanish speakers to get project information.

- **Project Website.** The project website 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 has contact information for Spanish speakers to get project information. UDOT also coordinated with local municipalities to post links on their websites to the Parley’s Interchange Project website.
5.4 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 all federal laws 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, identifying potential alternatives, and developing a community consensus around a Preferred Alternative or Alternatives.

5.4.1 Coordination and Public Involvement Plan

The Parley’s Interchange Coordination Plan included a public involvement element that introduced several strategies to inform the public about the project, develop community consensus around a Preferred Alternative or Alternatives, 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 Parley’s Interchange Project

The Parley’s Interchange 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.

A copy of the Parley’s Interchange Coordination Plan is available at www.parleyseis.com.

5.4.2 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 Parley’s interchange, a combination of measures was taken to ensure that the public was notified about the project and invited to participate in the process.
5.4.2.1 Notifications

The scoping period was initiated with the Federal Register notice on February 9, 2018, and ended on March 30, 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*, February 19 and March 1, 2018
  - *The Salt Lake Tribune*, February 19 and March 1, 2018
- Information regarding the public meeting was posted on UDOT’s project website.
- A UDOT press release was sent to local media outlets.
- A link to the Parley’s Interchange Project website was provided on Millcreek’s website.
- An information brochure was mailed to 3,200 property owners and residents living within 0.25 mile of the Parley’s interchange study area.

5.4.2.2 Public Scoping Meeting

UDOT held a public scoping meeting on March 6, 2018, at Highland High School in Salt Lake City. The meeting was held in an open-house format from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

The public scoping meeting had the following format:

- The public was encouraged but not required to sign in at the registration desk.
- Each participant was given a comment sheet and a project fact sheet. Each participant was also given an explanation of the display materials, information about how to submit comments, and additional contact information.
- Participants were encouraged to leave their comments.
- Displays included the following stations:
  - Purpose of the Meeting
  - Parley’s Interchange Study Area
  - What Is an Environmental Impact Statement?
  - Project Purpose
  - Project Need
  - How Congested Will Parley’s Interchange Become Without Improvements?
  - Initial Potential Alternatives
  - Safety Hotspots and Priority Areas
  - How Will UDOT Evaluate Alternatives?
  - What Is the EIS Schedule?
  - How Can I Participate?
- Project staff members were available to answer questions and provide information.
• A scroll map of the project area was provided, and meeting participants were encouraged to draw their ideas on the map.
• Participants were encouraged to view the display materials and submit questions or comments on the materials provided.
• A computer station was provided where commenters could identify specific areas on a map and then record their comment.

A total of 52 people attended the public scoping meeting. A total of 75 individual comment submissions were received that identified issues. The majority of the comments were related to safety, potential alternatives, noise, community impacts, and parks and trails. Many commenters were concerned about impacts to Parley’s Way Park and the Wilshire Drive neighborhood.

5.4.2.3 Scoping Summary Report
UDOT prepared a Scoping Summary Report that summarized the public and agency input that was gathered during the project scoping period, which ran from February 9, 2018, through March 30, 2018. The 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 scoping period. A copy of the Scoping Summary Report is available at www.parleyseis.com.

5.4.2.4 Other Scoping Period Outreach
During the scoping period, the following materials were published on the project website:
• Scoping newsletter
• Agency scoping meeting presentation
• Community council meeting presentation
• Stakeholder working group presentation and minutes

5.4.3 Purpose and Need
On April 23, 2018, UDOT posted the purpose and need chapter and the Alternatives-Development and Screening Methodology Report on the project website and sent an email to the project email list to notify stakeholders that the documents were available for a 30-day review from April 25 through May 25, 2018. About 200 comments were received. Many comments suggested that the need for the project should include high current and future noise levels in the surrounding neighborhoods. Other comments suggested that the purpose of the project should include protecting watersheds and water-related infrastructure and mitigating noise. UDOT evaluated impacts to watersheds and water-related infrastructure and mitigation of noise impacts as part of the EIS evaluation process. However, the primary purpose of the project is to address the transportation need.
5.4.4 Alternatives-Development Process

5.4.4.1 Alternatives-Development and Screening Methodology Report

On April 23, 2018, UDOT posted the purpose and need chapter and the Alternatives-Development and Screening Methodology Report on the project website and sent an email to the project email list to notify stakeholders that the documents were available for a 30-day review from April 25 through May 25, 2018. About 200 comments were received. The comments on the report stated that protection of watersheds, filling of wetlands, increases in noise levels, and relocation of the surrounding infrastructure should be included as screening criteria.

5.4.4.2 Alternatives-Development Public Comment Period

Based on comments from the public and agencies during the scoping period and past planning studies, UDOT developed four preliminary alternatives that would be used to seek input from the public. On July 9, 2018, UDOT made the preliminary alternatives available for a 30-day public comment period that ended on August 10, 2018. The comment period started with a public open house on July 9, 2018, at Skyline High School. About 75 people attended the public open house. At the public house, UDOT provided large scroll plots of the preliminary alternatives, an informational brochure about the alternatives, a computer station where the public could zoom in to specific areas along the alternative routes, information about the project’s purpose and need and alternatives-screening methodology, and project representatives who were available to respond to questions.

To inform the public about the public open house, about 2 weeks before the open house, UDOT sent an email to those who were on the email list on June 26, 2018, and a post-card was mailed to about 3,200 property owners and residents living within 0.25 mile of the Parley’s interchange study area. In addition, the four preliminary alternatives were posted on the project website along with a story map describing the alternatives in detail. Overall, about 220 comments were received during the 30-day comment period. Most of the comments were about the potential for increased noise levels, property and access impacts from a realigned Wasatch Boulevard, and potential relocations and closures of trailheads and trails.

In addition to the public open house, alternatives-development information was shared with the Business and Residents Stakeholder Working Groups on June 26, 2018, and UDOT made presentations to the community councils of Millcreek, Salt Lake City, and Salt Lake County in July 2018. The presentations to the Stakeholder Working Groups and community councils were published on the project website along with the minutes of the Stakeholder Working Group meetings.

At the conclusion of the alternatives-development comment period, UDOT posted on the project website the comments that were received as well as a frequently asked questions section to respond to common comments. UDOT then sent an email to the project email list to notify stakeholders that the comments and frequently asked questions were available.

What is a story map?

A story map is a map with narrative text that in combination tell a story.
5.4.4.3 Alternatives Screening Report

In May 2019, UDOT posted the Alternatives Screening Report on the project website. UDOT also created a project update newsletter that described the alternatives developed and the results of the screening process. The newsletter was posted on the project website along with the report. An email was sent to the public and agencies notifying them that the report was available for review on the project website. As part of the release, in May, UDOT met with owners of affected properties along Wasatch Boulevard.

5.4.5 Stakeholder Working Group Meetings

For the Parley’s Interchange EIS, a Business Stakeholder Working Group and Residential Stakeholder Working Group were established. These groups included representatives of key businesses adjacent to the interchange and representatives of the local communities. Table 5.4-1 lists the business and community representatives in the Stakeholder Working Groups.

Table 5.4-1. Stakeholder Working Group Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Stakeholder Working Group</th>
<th>Residential Stakeholder Working Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foothill Village</td>
<td>Bonneville Hills Neighborhood Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntsman Research Center</td>
<td>Canyon Rim Citizen Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish Community Center</td>
<td>East Bench Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millcreek Economic Development</td>
<td>East Mill Creek Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympus Hills Shopping Center</td>
<td>Foothill/Sunnyside Neighborhood Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Granite School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>REI</td>
<td>Millcreek Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Park</td>
<td>Millcreek Public Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice Eccles Stadium</td>
<td>Mt. Olympus Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Country Club</td>
<td>Parley’s Rails, Trails, and Tunnels Coalition (PRATT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Lake County Economic Development</td>
<td>Salt Lake City School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith’s Marketplace</td>
<td>Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation</td>
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<td>University of Utah</td>
<td>Sons of Utah Pioneers</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Utah Hospital</td>
<td>Sugar House Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walmart</td>
<td>Sunnyside East Neighborhood Council</td>
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</table>
The following Stakeholder Working Group meetings were held:

- **March 1, 2018.** The purpose of the meeting was to identify issues as part of the EIS scoping process. An overview of the Parley’s interchange study area was presented along with the project’s purpose and need.

- **June 26, 2018.** The purpose of the meeting was to summarize and seek input on the preliminary alternatives UDOT developed and to determine whether other alternatives should be considered as part of the EIS process.

- **May 29, 2019.** The purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the alternatives-screening process, discuss UDOT’s Preferred Alternatives, review the preliminary results of the EIS impact analysis, and discuss the next steps in the EIS process.

### 5.4.6 Other Public Outreach

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

- **Project Overview Fact Sheet mailed and posted to project website.** In February 2018, UDOT mailed an information brochure to 3,200 property owners and residents living within 0.25 mile of the Parley’s interchange study area. The fact sheet described the scoping process and the project’s purpose and need and explained how stakeholders could become involved in the project. The fact sheet was also posted on the project website.

- **Scoping meeting media release sent out.** In February 2018, a media release was sent out to regional newspapers before the scoping meeting.

- **Scoping Summary Report posted on project website.** On May 8, 2018, UDOT posted on the project website the Scoping Summary Report and as well as a frequently asked questions section to respond to common comments provided during the scoping period. UDOT then sent an email to the project email list to notify stakeholders that the report was available.

- **Noise information added to project website.** To address numerous comments regarding potential noise from the Parley’s interchange alternatives and related noise mitigation, in September 2018 UDOT added a separate website tab to explain its noise-evaluation process. The web page included a description of UDOT’s noise-evaluation process and a link to UDOT’s Noise Abatement Policy.

- **Draft Noise Report: Existing Conditions posted on project website.** On October 16, 2018, UDOT posted the Draft Noise Report: Existing Conditions on the project website. An email was sent to members of the public on the project email list to notify them that the report was available. This email included graphic of UDOT’s noise-evaluation process.
5.4.7 Project Website

The Parley’s Interchange Project website, www.parleyseis.com, is accessible through the navigation menu on the home page of UDOT’s website. The project website allows the public to view current Parley’s Interchange 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 site at any time.

5.5 Conclusion

UDOT has received input from agency representatives, city and county officials, and the residents and business owners and operators in the Parley’s interchange study area. Some stakeholders have agreed that capacity and safety improvements are required at the interchange. However, many stakeholders were concerned about impacts to local roads, access to their communities, property acquisitions, changes to trails and trailhead parking, and increased noise levels.

The project alternatives carried forward through the alternatives-development and screening process were developed by reviewing existing land use and transportation plans, through informal outreach at public informational meetings and meetings with local Cities and resource agencies, and through the Stakeholder Working Groups. Workshops with the Stakeholder Working Groups, local governments, and other concerned citizens and feedback from public comments shaped the alternatives considered and the screening process. Public input has helped UDOT balance and prioritize the alternatives to meet the needs of the public adjacent to the Parley’s interchange as well as the traveling public that uses the interchange. All substantive comments on this Draft EIS will be considered before UDOT issues a decision regarding the project.