Parley’s Interchange EIS
Agency Scoping Meeting
February 27, 2018
MEETING PURPOSE

- Review and Discuss
  - Project background and environmental study goals
  - SAFETEA-LU and SAFETEA-LU coordination
  - Agencies’ and local governments’ roles under SAFETEA-LU
  - Project Purpose and Need
  - Alternatives
  - Environmental checklist
  - EIS milestone and review timelines
PARLEY’S EIS TEAM

- **UDOT** – Lead Agency
  - Project Manager – Becky Stromness
  - Environmental Lead – Naomi Kisen

- **HDR** – Lead EIS Consultant
  - Vince Izzo PM
  - Kevin Kilpatrick NEPA Lead

- **Horrocks** – Travel Demand, Cultural Resources
NEPA ASSIGNMENT

- UDOT has been assigned FHWA’s NEPA responsibilities:
  - All NEPA classes of action: CEs, EAs, and EISs
  - All environmental laws, rules, and orders
  - Consultation with agencies
- UDOT is assigned federal agency (FHWA) responsibilities, which include:
  - UDOT reviews and approves environmental documents
  - State defends any legal challenges in federal court
- UDOT still must comply with the same laws as before
- Increases efficiency in the environmental process
NEPA

- Must be completed for all federal actions (e.g., funding, permits)
- For the Parley’s interchange project, changes to the interchange will still require a Interchange Access Change permit from FHWA
- NEPA requires lead agencies to evaluate a range of alternatives even if they are different from what might have been presented in previous studies
PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Interchange constructed in 1960s.
- No major improvements since original construction.
- I-80 Major Investment Study – 1998
- Foothill/I-80/I-215 Interchange Study – 2017
- Foothill Drive Implementation Study - 2017
WHY IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED

- Interchange does not meet current design standards
- Accident rate exceeds State averages
- Traffic congestion during the AM and PM commute periods
- Morning commute traffic backs onto mainline I-80 and I-215 causing unsafe conditions
- Many weave movements do not meet design standards

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**Safety**

Parley’s Interchange has not had a capacity or major safety upgrade since its completion in the mid-1960s. Parts of the interchange have accident rates above the state average for similar facilities.

**Traffic Flow**

Parley’s Interchange is congested during the morning and evening peak commutes, with traffic backing up onto the interstate travel lanes.

**Regional Mobility**

Travel delay through the interchange has reduced regional mobility for passenger and freight traffic that use this critical local and national link of the interstate system.

**Updated Design**

Parley’s Interchange does not meet current design and safety standards.
HOW CONGESTED?

2050 AM LOS
- LOS A-C
- LOS D
- LOS E

2050 PM LOS
- LOS A-C
- LOS D
- LOS E

UDOT’S GOAL IS LOS D OR BETTER

LEVEL OF SERVICE
FLOW CONDITIONS

FREE FLOW
Low volumes and no delays.
LOS A

STABLE FLOW
Speeds restricted by travel conditions, minor delays.
LOS B

STABLE FLOW
Speeds and maneuverability closely controlled because of higher volumes.
LOS C

STABLE FLOW
Speeds considerably affected by change in operation conditions, high density traffic restricts maneuverability, volume near capacity.
LOS D

UNSTABLE FLOW
Low speeds; considerable delay; volume at or slightly over capacity.
LOS E

FORCED FLOW
Very low speeds; volumes exceed capacity; long delays with stop-and-go traffic.
LOS F
SAFETY NEEDS

Safety Hotspots
Areas with higher than average crash rates*
*Accidents between 2010 and 2015

Priority Areas
Areas with inadequate capacity, congestion, slow speed traffic merging with higher speed traffic, and weaving movements

The crash data and associated analysis in this report is protected by 23 USC 409 and is inadmissible in State or Federal court.
Based on previous needs, the draft project purpose is:

- **Improve the Level of Service at Parley’s Interchange in 2050**
  - Level of Service D is UDOT’s goal
- **Improve Regional Mobility in 2050**
- **Improve Safety**
  - Upgrade the design elements.

What are your thoughts?
RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

- Parley’s Creek and associated potential wetlands
- No known threatened and endangered species
- Numerous cultural resources
- Water quality and infrastructure
- Recreational Resources
  - Tanner Park
  - Parley’s Way Park
  - Parley’s Historic Nature Park
  - Parley’s Trail
  - Other recreational trails
What resources should be considered in the EIS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource or issue</th>
<th>Is the resource or issue present in the area?</th>
<th>Would there be impacts on the resource?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensitive biological resources</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Wildlife corridors</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Wetland areas</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Riparian areas/streams</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>100-year floodplain</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Prime or unique farmland or farmland of statewide or local importance</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Visual resources</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Designated scenic roadway</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Archaeological resources</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Historical resources</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Section 4(d)(1) wildlife refuge</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>historic site, recreational site, park</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Water bodies/water quality</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Existing development</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planned development</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title VI / environmental justice populations</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Hazardous materials</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Sensitive noise receivers</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Air quality</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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<td>Other (list)</td>
<td>Yes, No, Unknown, Not applicable</td>
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SAFETEA-LU 6002 REQUIREMENTS

SAFETEA-LU 6002 (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act)

- A part of the “federal transportation funding bill”: SAFETEA-LU
- Section 6002 specifically addresses the NEPA process
- Requires the lead agency (UDOT) to identify and coordinate with other agencies, local governments, tribal representatives, and the public during the EIS process
- Section 6002 directs UDOT to:
  - Identify and invite cooperating and participating agencies
  - Develop a coordination plan
  - Develop a coordinated schedule (contained in an approved coordination plan)
  - Identify milestone-based opportunities for coordination
COORDINATION PLAN

- Required for an EIS
- Describes the agency coordination and consultation plan
- Details agencies roles and responsibilities
- Identifies opportunities for public involvement
- Describes the communication methods that will be used
- Communicates upcoming meeting dates and the current project schedule
- Communicates the expected document review schedule

You can review and provide comments!
www.udot.utah.gov/parleysEIS
Cooperating agencies
- Normally identified during the NEPA process (not a new category)
- Agencies that have regulatory authority over the project (e.g., issue a permit) or manage land in the project area
- Participate in the scoping process and coordinate on development of resource specific information

Participating agencies
- New category under SAFETEA-LU
- Provides additional opportunities for other federal, state, and local agencies that have an interest in the project or project area to participate
- Work with team and other agencies throughout process
- Provide feedback and comment
- Provide supplemental information
- Cooperating agencies are always participating agencies
PARTICIPATING AGENCY EXPECTATIONS

- Participate in the NEPA process starting at the earliest possible time
  - Milestone-based meetings (development of the purpose and need, identification of a range of alternatives, and alternatives screening)
- Participate in the scoping process
  - All agencies and the public encouraged to provide input
- Identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project’s potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts
Our commitment to you:

- Keep you informed.
- Involve you in analysis and decision-making.
- Provide early notification of upcoming reviews and events.
- Deliver review documents on time.
- Respond in a timely manner.

Partnering expectations:

- Open communication
- Timely document review
- Early communication of concerns
- Foster consensus
EXPECTED SCHEDULE

- **EIS Notice of Intent** – February 9, 2018
- **Public Scoping** – February 9 to March 30, 2018
- **Purpose and Need** – April 2018
- **Project Alternatives** – April to September 2018
- **Draft EIS** – June 2019
- **Final EIS/ROD** – February 2020

Schedule and Process

- **EIS Scoping**
  - FEB - MAR 2018
- **Alternatives Development**
  - APR 2018 - SEPT 2018
- **Draft EIS (DEIS)**
  - SEPT 2018 - JUNE 2019
- **Public Hearing/Comments on DEIS**
  - JUNE - AUG 2019
- **Final EIS (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)**
  - AUG 2019 - FEB 2020

Ongoing Agency Coordination and Public Involvement
AGENCY REVIEW TIMES

- Coordination Plan – 30 days
- Purpose and Need – 30 days
- Range of Alternatives – 30 days
  - Which alternatives should be considered for evaluation
  - Input on alternatives screening process
- Draft EIS – 45 Days
CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Scoping Period**
  - February 9 to March 30
  - Scoping comments due by March 30, 2018

- **Public Scoping Meeting**
  - March 6, 2018 – 4 pm to 7 pm
  - Highland High School
What do we need from you?

- Contact information for your agency lead on this project
- Each agency’s specific issues
- Milestone reviews
TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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FINAL QUESTIONS?