

**5 COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Involvement and participation by federal and state agencies, local public officials, and the general public was solicited for the development and direction of this project. This section describes the coordination and public involvement conducted throughout the SDEIS process. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct the SDEIS was published in the Federal Register on April 26, 2004 to solicit comments and suggestions from all interested parties (see Appendix F). A total of eight meetings were held as part of the SDEIS public involvement process for this project; three meetings with Army National Guard officials, three meetings with federal/state resource agency representatives and local public officials, and two public involvement meetings with the general public. Table 5-1 contains a summary of information pertaining to these meetings.

	Date	Location	Approximate Attendance
Army National Guard	March 2004	Camp Robinson	10
Army National Guard	February 2005	Camp Robinson	11
Army National Guard	March 2005	Camp Robinson	5
Agency/Public Officials	March 2005	Little Rock	21
Agency/Public Officials	November 2005	Sherwood	19
Public Involvement	November 2005	Sherwood	489
	November 2005	Runyon Acres	
Agency/Public Officials	January 2006	Little Rock	19

**5.1 ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

In order to update the alignment alternative through Camp Robinson, several meetings were held with Army National Guard officials. The officials requested minor adjustments to the original route through Camp Robinson as a result of land use planning changes that had occurred since the Selected Alternative had been identified in the ROD. Following the meetings at Camp Robinson, these officials also participated in the agency/public officials meetings in order to stay updated on the project’s progress.

## **5.2 AGENCY/PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

A meeting with state/federal resource agencies and public officials was held on March 23, 2005 to familiarize them with the project and identify issues and concerns for consideration and study in the SDEIS. A copy of the scoping letter, a list of those invited to attend, a copy of the informational handout, and a synopsis of the meeting and comments from the attendees are included in Appendix F. Two additional agency/public officials meetings were held to take comments on the initial and revised alignment alternatives.

## **5.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public involvement meetings were held in two areas of Sherwood on the evenings of November 14 and 15, 2005. Press releases to local media and mailing lists were used to notify the public of the scheduled public involvement meetings. The sign-up sheet from the public involvement meeting in October 2003 was used as the basis for the mailing list, and it was supplemented with names as inquiries were received. Local officials and Army National Guard officials were also notified of the public involvement sessions.

Exhibits utilizing aerial photographs and maps overlaid with the proposed alignment alternatives were used to inform the public. Additionally, a flowchart presented a simplified outline of the overall project process. Handouts were used to convey information about the project including its history and status. AHTD representatives were available to explain the displays and provide information.

Comment sheets were used to encourage contributions from the public. They were designed to obtain information about environmental constraints in the project area and public perception on the purpose and need of the project. To encourage participation by citizens unable to attend the scheduled meetings, copies of the maps with corridors and comment sheets were provided to cities in the area. This information was also available at the local AHTD office in Little Rock. Subsequent to the public involvement meeting, a website was developed to provide the latest project information. A copy of the press release, handout and comment sheet, and a synopsis and analysis of the public involvement meetings are included in Appendix F.