

Chapter 3 – Agency and Public Involvement

The public involvement program actively engaged Chelan County stakeholders and the broader community in planning their transportation future for all modes of travel including motor vehicles, aviation, rail, transit, marine and non-motorized. The plan established a fundamental link between County land use and required transportation infrastructure. The public involvement program informed stakeholders and the broader community about the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged their participation in shaping development of the plan.

The outreach program was designed to have participation on several levels. The Steering Committee, composed of agency representatives directly involved in the project and elected representatives, gave specific guidance to the work of the consultant team. A Stakeholder Advisory Group, composed of representatives from Chelan County, WVTC, WSDOT, local communities, transportation service providers, organizations, business interests and citizens provided advice at key points in the process. A speaker's bureau, led by Chelan County staff, gave presentations and gathered feedback from interested organizations throughout the County. Two countywide open houses were held, the first following identification of needs and proposed improvement priorities and the second to review identified project priorities and potential funding strategies to achieve implementation of projects over time.

The Steering Committee and Stakeholders Group met five times during the development of the Transportation Element; in addition, public open houses were held prior to their second and fourth meetings. The Steering Committee met in the afternoon following each of the five stakeholder meetings. These meetings enabled the Steering Committee to review and consider the stakeholder and community feedback as they discussed and developed their direction to the consultant team. Public feedback from the open houses and speaker's bureau briefings was provided to the Stakeholder Group and Steering Committee for their consideration throughout the process. Materials and meeting notes are available in Appendix A.

A County website offered project information, notices of upcoming meetings and a posting of all meeting and open house materials. Electronic communication was used to contact members of the Steering Committee, Stakeholder Group and broader community about meetings and open houses.



Open houses were held to obtain input from the public on their transportation issues and needs.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee had perhaps the greatest interest and participation in the project. Members regularly attended the Stakeholder Group meetings and public open houses to assure a good understanding of broader community views, in addition to playing a role on the committee.

Steering Committee Members:

- Greg Pezoldt, Chelan County Public Works, Project Manager
- John Guenther, Former Chelan County Community Development Director (replaced by Lilith Yanagimachi, Chelan County Planner)
- Buell Hawkins, Former Chelan County District #3 Commissioner
- Jeff Wilkens, WVTC Executive Director
- Connie Krueger, City of Leavenworth Community Development Director
- Dave Honsinger, WSDOT North-Central Region Planning Manager
- Richard Derock, LINK Transit Executive Director

The following table provides a summary of the meetings and major topics discussed. All meeting materials and a more detailed summary are provided in Appendix A.

Table 3-1. Steering Committee Meetings

Meeting Date	Major Topics
Meeting #1 March 7, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Program Overview • Public Involvement Plan • Goals and Policies • Issues Identification • Committee's Role in Guiding the Project
Meeting #2 June 4, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House Summary • Design and Operational Standards • Priority Criteria • Needs Assessment Approach
Meeting #3 August 6, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Meeting Highlights • Financial Analysis • LOS Standards • Travel Forecasts • Preliminary Capital Project List
Meeting #4 October 1, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House Summary • Funding Strategies • LOS Standards • Development Review Process
Meeting #5 November 19, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrency Implementation • Mitigation Requirements and Administrative Guidelines • Funding Recommendations • Updates to Goals and Policies

Stakeholder Advisory Group

The Stakeholder Advisory Group was composed of a large, broadly representative group of interests from throughout the County. Members reflected the different geographic areas of the County as well as different interests including business, community, recreation, non-motorized, freight and agencies. The list of invited participants was initially identified by the County. Additional recommendations were added at the first Stakeholder Group and Steering Committee meetings. Members were contacted via an email invitation and follow-up phone calls by the County. Over 35 stakeholders participated in all or some of the five meetings. Two of the meetings also included video or telephone conferencing for some agency representatives in Leavenworth and Chelan. Stakeholders representing groups were also sent email invitations to the public open houses and asked to distribute them to their organizations and other community members who might have an interest.



The Stakeholder Advisory Group reflected the different geographic areas of the County as well as different interests including business, community, recreation, non-motorized, freight and adjoining agencies.

The presentations and discussion topics for the meetings followed the same items as those discussed by the Steering Committee. Stakeholder Group members were asked to provide their views and insights on all aspects of the Transportation Element. Feedback from the Stakeholder Group was an important component to the Steering Committees' consideration in developing recommendations for the consultant team.

Table 3-2 provides a summary of the meetings and major topics discussed with the stakeholder group. All meeting materials and a more detailed summary are provided in Appendix A.

Table 3-2. Stakeholder Advisory Group Meetings

Meeting Date	Major Topics
Meeting #1 March 7, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Work Program Overview • Public Involvement Plan • Issues Identification
Meeting #2 June 4, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Service • Transportation Improvements to Consider • Land Use Projections
Meeting #3 August 6, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Efforts • Project Priorities • Financial Analysis • Preliminary Capital Projects
Meeting #4 October 1, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Strategies • LOS Standards • Development Review Process
Meeting #5 November 19, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and Implementation Strategies • Goals and Policies

Speakers Bureau

A PowerPoint presentation, tailored for delivery by County staff to interested community organizations, was developed following the first two Stakeholder and Steering Committee meetings and the first public open house. The presentation outlined the Transportation Element objectives, the process for updating the Element, outreach methods, the project schedule considerations for prioritizing improvements, the relationship of land use and the environment, types of roadway improvements, countywide issues and a detailed look at each subarea. Presentations were made by Greg Pezoldt and John Guenther during the summer of 2008 as follows:

- Sunnyslope/Foothills - June 25, 2008
- Malaga - July 1, 2008
- Peshastin – July 7, 2008
- Manson – July 22, 2008
- Chamber Alliance – July 28, 2008
- Chelan Falls / Howard Flats – August 14, 2008
- Monitor – August 21, 2008
- Freight Mobility Group – August 22, 2008

Open Houses

Two public meetings were held to provide the broader public with an opportunity to express their views about the update of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Meeting dates were coordinated to occur on evenings preceding the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings.

The first open house was held on June 3, 2008 at the Confluence Technology Center. The event introduced the public to the plan update process, shared project history and objectives, and actively engaged community members in identification of the issues and potential improvements. A presentation by the consultant team and County staff provided an overview of the project and process. Staffed exhibits offered more detailed information on priorities and subarea opportunities. Attendees were asked to express their views on priority needs through a “dot exercise” and involved identifying their highest three priorities by marking them with three “dots” that were provided. The results of the exercise were then reported to the Stakeholder Group and Steering Committee.

The second open house was expanded to include events in three different locations in order to provide better access to community members. Open houses were hosted on September 30th at the Wenatchee Confluence Technology Center, October 1st at the City of Chelan Council Chambers and October 16th at the City of Leavenworth Fire Hall. The Leavenworth open house was a joint review of both the Leavenworth and County Transportation Elements, so results of that meeting were also included in the City of Leavenworth’s Transportation Element.

The purpose of the second series of open houses was to confirm the 20-year multimodal transportation project list including project priorities and timing for implementation. The meetings also focused on potential funding strategies and sources that could be used to meet the transportation project needs. Open house materials were the same for all locations but with special emphasis on the geographic area of most interest for each city and surrounding communities. Exhibits and handouts provided the extensive project list divided into three tiers of funding probability plus detailed information about each of the nine subareas. Exhibits included the history, objectives, project evaluations by subarea plan and an analysis of the County’s transportation funding status and options. They were staffed by consultants and County representatives who engaged participants in discussion, clarification and identification of views. Following a brief presentation by the consultant, Commissioner Buell Hawkins facilitated a community discussion about the prioritization of projects and the challenges posed by current funding limits. In addition to questions and responses, the discussion focused on the communities willingness to consider new forms of transportation revenue and who should ultimately be responsible to fund certain types of improvements. This resulted in a lively discussion.



Open houses were held in the spring and fall of 2008 and attracted a number of residents from throughout the County.

The open house meetings were advertised through press releases to the local media, public service announcements during the Commissioner's radio programs, web site notification and an email to the stakeholder list for broader distribution to organizations and interest groups.

Meeting summaries, agendas, and materials for the Public Open Houses can be found in Appendix A. They provide detail on the presentations, exhibits, discussion and feedback. Exhibit material and handouts are included with the Stakeholder Group Meeting information since the same material was used for both meetings and the open houses.

Web Site

A project website was hosted and maintained by Chelan County throughout the duration of the project. In addition to general project information and notice of meetings and open houses, the agendas, handouts, exhibits and meeting summaries for the Stakeholder Group and the open houses are included as resource documents. Interested community members had access to all information online and also expressed views or raised questions via email.



A web site was created to provide the public with general project information and notice of meetings and open houses, along with the meeting agendas, handouts, exhibits and summaries.