

CHAPTER 6

COMMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

6 COMMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The NEPA encourages public involvement activities early and throughout the process of alternatives development and environmental impact analysis. This section of the Environmental Assessment (EA) describes the public and government agency coordination efforts that have been conducted to date for the Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) Project, as well as a description of activities throughout the conclusion of the EA process. The public involvement program for this Project has included extensive outreach to citizens, municipalities and counties along the Project corridor, regulatory agencies, major institutions and other affected groups.

Any public involvement process should ensure that important community concerns and technical issues are identified early in the Project development stage and addressed in the planning, engineering, environmental, economic, and financial analyses. In addition, one of the major reasons for the public involvement process is to transmit data to the public, and inform the public about the Project. An interactive community involvement process is used to develop and refine the alternatives carried forward in the EA process in order to respond effectively to community needs and preferences, and to satisfy local, state, and Federal environmental regulatory requirements, as well as to allow the public to ascertain as much information as they desire.

A Public Involvement Program (PIP) was developed and implemented as an integral part of the CRT EA process. The purpose of the program is to establish and maintain communications with the public, individuals and agencies concerned with the EA process and any potential Project impacts.

In an effort to identify and resolve issues associated with the proposed Project, FDOT conducted an extensive interagency coordination and consultation effort as well as the public participation program. This chapter of the EA details the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) program to fully identify, address and resolve Project-related issues identified through the Public Involvement Program.

6.1 Public Involvement Program

FDOT Central Florida Commuter Rail Public Involvement Programs

The public involvement effort for the CRT Project during this EA phase of the Project development process is a continuation of previous FDOT public involvement efforts for all I-4 corridor mobility improvements, including but not limited to the Central Florida Light Rail Transit System North/South Corridor Project, begun in 1996 and extending through the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement in 1998.

Subsequently, the development of the *Central Florida North/South Commuter Corridor Alternatives Analysis*¹ (AA) in 2002 and 2003 instituted a separate public involvement program for the analysis of alternatives for a potential commuter rail corridor in the Orlando metropolitan area. The AA is the first phase of the multi-step FTA Project development process. Conclusion of the AA leads to the Preliminary Engineering phase

¹ *Central Florida North/South Commuter Corridor Alternatives Analysis - Final Report*, May 2004

where estimates of Project costs, benefits and impacts are developed to a level of detail necessary to complete the NEPA process.

The AA PIP included three rounds of public meetings and workshops consisting of four meetings (two additional meetings were conducted in the second round along with a one day "information fair"), held at key Project milestones. Meetings were held in each of the affected counties (Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Osceola). The first round of meetings was conducted in October and November 2002 as the public scoping meetings for the AA phase. The first round of workshops was held concurrent with these scoping meetings. A subsequent second round of workshops was held in March and April 2003. In addition to the meetings listed above, a public outreach event was held at the downtown Orlando LYNX Central Station in April 2003 to distribute Project information during peak travel periods. The third and final round of AA public workshops was conducted in February 2004 to present the LPA that was developed based on input from previous public workshops and coordination with local agencies.

Additionally, the AA PIP included an extensive agency coordination effort, including the formation of a Community Rail Projects Communications Group or Project Advisory Group (PAG), which consisted of consultant and agency members representing the Commuter Rail, Light Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, and Florida High Speed Rail Projects. The purpose of the PAG was to organize a series of combined community outreach events to educate the public on the various rail Projects. These outreach events were held at five separate locations in November 2002.

Other agency coordination activities included the institution of monthly Transit Project Stakeholder Meetings for Commuter Rail, the Light Rail Transit and Bus Rapid Transit Projects. Agency members of the stakeholders' group included representatives from Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia Counties; area municipalities; METROPLAN ORLANDO; Volusia MPO, FDOT, LYNX and VOTRAN.

Station coordination meetings were held with representatives of several area municipalities to discuss potential station locations, including Orlando, Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Kissimmee, Winter Park, Orange County, and Osceola County. A separate round of technical presentations was conducted for representative of corridor counties, municipalities, Board members and several committees (Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee) of METROPLAN Orlando prior to the public meetings and workshops.

Commuter Rail Transit Environmental Assessment PIP

The PIP for the CRT Project during the EA included the following aspects:

- Identification of the Affected Public;
- Advanced Notification(AN);
- Public Outreach activities; and
- Agency Coordination.

Identification of the Affected Public and the Public Outreach Activities are discussed in more detail below. The AN and Agency Coordination activities are described in Section 6.4.

Identification of the Affected Public

The CRT PIP includes a detailed listing of public agencies and local officials throughout the Project area who have been contacted, briefed about the Project and/or supplied with a package containing an overview of the CRT Project. This package consisted of the AN package described in Section 6.4 below. The mailing list for the AN package is included in Appendix H. As other potentially affected public agencies have been identified during the EA process, they were added to the Project mailing list.

Additionally, business and economic development agencies have been identified and targeted with outreach activities, including meetings. These include local business development centers, Chambers of Commerce, small and large community gatherings, public fairs and expos, community groups, neighborhood associations, social clubs, and business associations.

Public Outreach Activities

A significant effort for the CRT PIP has included a series of ongoing public outreach activities. These include:

- Focused community and institutional meetings and briefings throughout the Project Corridor;
- Preparation and distribution of a CRT “Briefing Booklet” Project flyer;
- Preparation and distribution of a 3-minute and 9-minute Project video;
- Preparation of Power Point presentations about the Project for community meetings and Public Hearings;
- Preparation and distribution of brochures in Spanish and English, as well as additional informational material and tri-fold flyers;
- “Quality Time” buttons, balloons and “squeegee” trains for public outreach events;
- Launch of an interactive website -- www.cfrail.com – for information, questions and feedback from the public about the Project;
- Establishment of a Project Advisory Group;
- A series of public “Alternatives Workshops” along the Project Corridor;
- Four Public Hearings, one in each affected county, held in January 16 and 18, 2007;
- Press conference attended by FTA, Governor, U.S. Representatives, Local elected officials, LYNX, VoTran, Metroplan Orlando, community stakeholders, media and the public to announce Agreement in Principle to buy CSXT tracks;
- Additional agency and community meetings; and
- Media outreach and publicity.

Focused Community and Institutional Meetings

One of the earliest activities in the PIP was an initial series of meetings scheduled by FDOT in January and February 2005 with officials of the CRT Corridor communities, counties and major institutions and landowners along the Corridor. At these meetings, FDOT and the Project engineering consultant presented the concept plan for the Project

and discussed the specific comments and concerns of the meeting participants. A complete listing of the meetings held is included in Table 6-1 below.

Table 6-1: Initial CRT Local Government and Institutional Meetings

Date	Community/Organization	Meeting Attendees
January 5, 2005	Sanford	City Manager, Director Of Planning
January 10, 2005	Orlando	Chief Planner, Transportation Planner, City Architect
January 11, 2005	DeBary	City Manager, Planning Administrator
January 12, 2005	Lake Mary	City Manager, Community Development Director
January 12, 2005	Orange City	City Manager, Development Services Director
January 14, 2005	Winter Park	City Manager, Asst. City Manager, Director of Parks and Recreation
January 18, 2005	Progress Energy	Community Relations Manager, Sr. Economic Development Executive, Plant Manager, Orange City representative
January 20, 2005	DeLand	City Manager, Community Development Director
January 20, 2005	Maitland	City Manager, Community Development Director, Transportation Engineer
January 21, 2005	Belle Isle	City Manager
January 21, 2005	Kissimmee	City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Director of Development Services
January 24, 2005	Florida Hospital	Florida Hospital Architect, Orlando Transportation Planner, Orlando City Architect, Business Development Manager for Orlando Business Development Board
January 24, 2005	ORMC	ORMC representative, Orlando Transportation Planner, Orlando City Architect, Business Development Manager for Orlando Business Development Board
January 25, 2005	Longwood	City Administrator
January 26, 2005	Edgewood	City Clerk, City Engineer, Police Chief
January 27, 2005	Casselberry	City Manager, Community Development Director
January 27, 2005	Eatonville	Chief Administrative Officer, Public Works Director
February 9, 2005	Deltona	City Manager
February 11, 2005	Volusia County	County Traffic Engineer
February 15, 2005	Osceola County	Deputy County Manager, Senior Transportation Planner
February 22, 2005	Winter Springs	City Manager
February 23, 2005	Orange County	Manager of Public Works
March 2, 2005	Seminole County	County Engineer, Transportation Specialist

Preparation and Distribution of a CRT Project “Briefing Booklet”

A Project flyer, known as the “Briefing Booklet” was prepared for wide distribution in May 2005. A copy of the Briefing Booklet is included in Appendix D. The Briefing Booklet presented a four page summary of the CRT Project, including a brief introduction, the background and history of the Project, brief descriptions of the No Build, TSM and Build Project Alternatives, concept illustrations of commuter rail station prototypes and an EA Schedule.

The Briefing Booklet was distributed to the Project mailing list and posted on the Project website in advance of the public “Alternatives Workshops” in June 2005.

Establishment of a Project Advisory Group (PAG)

The Project Advisory Group (PAG), similar in concept to the PAGs established for the previous I-4 Multi-Modal Master Plan and Central Florida Light Rail Transit System

Projects, was revived for the CRT Project. The primary role of the PAG is to review Project information at key steps and to advise the Project team on the presentation of Project technical information to the public. The following parties were invited to participate on the PAG:

- City of Altamonte Springs
- City of Belle Isle
- City of Casselberry
- City of DeBary
- City of DeLand
- City of Edgewood
- City of Kissimmee
- City of Lake Mary
- City of Maitland
- City of Orange City
- City of Orlando
- City of Sanford
- City of Winter Park
- City of Winter Springs
- Davis & Associates (representing Florida Hospital)
- Downtown Development Board
- East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce
- LYNX
- METROPLAN Orlando
- Office of Congressman John Mica
- Orange County
- Orange County Public Schools
- Orlando International Airport
- Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority
- Osceola County
- Seminole County
- Seminole County Public Schools
- South Florida Water Management District

- St. Johns River Water Management District
- Volusia County
- Volusia County Schools
- VOTRAN
- West Orange Chamber of Commerce
- Winter Park Chamber of Commerce
- City of Longwood
- City of Deltona
- Chamber of Commerce of West Volusia County
- Sierra Club, Central Florida Group.

A PAG meeting was held on May 25, 2005 in advance of the Public Alternatives Workshops in June 2005. Thirteen (13) PAG representatives attended this meeting. A presentation of the Project was given to the attendees. Discussion at the meeting focused on issues related to station locations, Project funding, Project implementation and the Project Schedule.

6.2 Alternatives Workshops

Four public workshops were held during June 2005. The meeting schedule and locations are listed in Table 6-2 below.

Table 6-2: CFCRT Alternatives Workshops

Date	Location
June 7, 2005	Seminole County Lyman High School Auditorium Longwood
June 9, 2005	Orange County William R. Boone High School Orlando
June 14, 2005	Volusia County DeLand High School Auditorium DeLand
June 16, 2005	Osceola County The Osceola Performing Arts Center Kissimmee

The Alternatives Workshops format included a preliminary open house where FDOT and Project consultant team representatives were available to answer questions from the public in advance of the formal presentation of the Project in the public meeting. Detailed presentation boards and printed material were available for public review during the open house portion of the workshop. These materials included large scale aerial photographs of the entire Project Corridor with the Project alignment, proposed station locations and major community facilities identified. Large scale renderings of the prototypical station designs were also available for review.

Project Website

Throughout the EA process at key milestones, Project material has been posted for public review on the Central Florida Rail website: <http://www.cfrail.com>. The website was thoroughly revamped in August, 2006 to coincide with a formal announcement of an Agreement in Principle between FDOT and CSX Transportation. Information posted on the website includes, but is not limited to, the Project briefing booklet, commuter rail station prototype plans, aerial photographs of the proposed CRT stations, study area maps, a copy of the Alternatives Workshops presentation, a Question and Answer section; video materials about the Project; informational brochures and flyers in Spanish and English; transit-oriented development information; individual station information, locator maps, station renderings and video clips of track scenery between stations; Public Hearing information and news releases; media coverage of the Project; and upcoming announcements.

Additional Agency and Community Meetings

In addition to the meetings previously listed, a series of additional meetings have been held throughout the EA process with a wide variety of public groups, government agencies, and major commercial and institutional stakeholders along the Project Corridor. Table 6-3 lists these meetings.

Table 6-3: Agency and Community CRT Informational Meetings

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
Jan 31, 2005	FTA – HQ	Discuss Project with staff
February 28, 2005	VOTRAN	Presented Information on Project
March 8, 2005	Volusia County MPO	Presented Information on Project
March 11, 2005	LYNX	Presented Information on Project
March 14,15, 2005	FTA HQ	Field visit by FTA HQ to CFCRT
April 15, 2005	Orange County Transportation Planning Group	Presented Information on Project
April 22, 2005	METROPLAN TTC	Presented Information on Project
April 27, 2005	City of Maitland	Discuss Project with staff
May 4, 2005	FES Luncheon	Presented Information on Project
May 11, 2005	City of Maitland	Discuss Project with staff
June 1, 2005	Osceola County	Discuss resolution with staff
June 6, 2005	Volusia County	Discuss resolution with staff
June 8, 2005	METROPLAN Orlando Commuter	Rail adopted in LRTP
June 8, 2005	Orange County	Discuss resolution with staff
June 9, 2005	Seminole County	Discuss resolution with staff
June 14, 2005	Osceola County Commissioner	Transportation Workshop
June 22, 2005	METROPLAN CAC and BPAC	Presented Information on Project
June 24, 2005	METROPLAN TTC	Presented Information on Project
July 6, 2005	Orlando Realtor's Group	Presented Information on Project
July 6, 2005	City of Orlando	Discuss Project with staff
July 7, 2005	Volusia County Council	Adopted resolution for funding of CRT
July 11, 2005	Winter Park Commission	Presented information on Project

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
July 12, 2005	Orange County Commission	Presented information on Project
July 13, 2005	METROPLAN Board	Presented information on Project
July 13, 2005	City of Orlando Commission Budget Workshop	Presented information on Project
July 14, 2005	Envision Seminole – Seminole County	Presented information on Project
July 15, 2005	Winter Park Chamber of Commerce	Presented Information on Project
July 18, 2005	Osceola County Commission	Adopted resolution for funding of CRT
July 25, 2005	City of Orlando Commission	Adopted resolution for funding of CRT
July 26, 2005	Seminole County	Adopted resolution for funding of CRT
August 4, 2005	METROPLAN MAC	Presented information on Project
August 4, 2005	Orlando Regional Realtor's Association	Presented information on Project
August 8, 2005	Winter Park Rotary	Presented information on Project
August 8, 2005	Winter Park Council	Presented information on Project, Adopted resolution
August 9, 2005	Maitland Rotary Club	Presented information on Project
August 9, 2005	Orange County	Adopted resolution on Project
August 9, 2005	City of Kissimmee Commission	Presented Information on Project
August 11, 2005	LYNX	Discuss Project with staff
August 11, 2005	VOTRAN	Discuss Project with staff
August 15, 2005	McCree Industries	Discuss Project
August 16, 2005	FTA – Regional	Field visit over CFCRT corridor
August 18, 2005	City of Maitland	Presented Information on Project
August 22, 2005	City of Maitland Council	Presented Information on Project
August 23, 2005	Women League of Voters	Presented Information on Project
August 25, 2005	ASCE	Presented Information on Project
September 12, 2005	Maitland City Council	Presented Information on Project
September 15, 2005	LYNX	Discuss Project with staff
September 21, 2005	Maitland Chamber of Commerce	Presented Information on Project
October 5, 2005	FTA HQ	Discuss Project with staff
October 8, 2005	University of Women Association	Presented Information on Project
October 10, 2005	Orlando Young Professionals	Presented Information on Project
October 15, 2005	Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers	Presented information on Project
October 25, 2005	FTA – Regional Headquarters	Discuss Project with staff
October 28, 2005	City of Orlando	Discuss Project with staff
October 31, 2005	Progress Energy	Discuss Project
November 1, 2005	Rotary for East Orange County	Presented information on Project
November 1, 2005	Edgewood Commission	Discuss Project
November 2, 2005	Utility Coordination	Discuss Project
November 15, 2005	FTA – Regional Headquarters	Discuss Project with staff
November 18, 2005	FTA Representative	Field review of CFCRT corridor land use

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
December 1, 2005	International Round Table	Presented information on Project
December 14, 2005	Florida Hospital	Discuss Project
December 16, 2005	ORHC	Presented information on Project
December 19, 2005	Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Osceola joint meeting	Presented information on Project
January 5, 2006	SHPO meeting	Discuss Project with staff
January 11, 2006	MetroPlan Orlando	Presented Information on Project
January 13, 2006	Altamonte Springs	Project update
January 19, 2006	Seminole County	Project update
January 19, 2006	LYNX Board	Project update
January 20, 2006	Seminole, Osceola, Orange, Volusia, Orlando stakeholders meeting	Project update and discussion
January 24, 2006	Volusia County MPO	Project update
February 1, 2006	FES	Information presentation
February 7, 2006	Orlando Utilities Commission	Presented Information on Project
February 9, 2006	Winter Garden	Presented Information on Project
February 10, 2006	LYNX Regional Working Group	Presented Information on Project
February 27, 2006	Volusia County	Staff discussion
March 8, 2006	MetroPlan Orlando	Project update and presentation
March 29, 2006	FTA – Atlanta	Project update and discussion
April 10, 2006	LYNX	Project update and discussion
April 13, 2006	Florida Transportation Commissioner Marcos Marchena	Project briefing
April 18, 2006	Orange County Focus Group	Project presentation
April 18, 2006	Ocala Focus Group	Project presentation
April 27, 2006	Florida Transportation Commissioner Marcos Marchena	Project update
May 4, 2006	College Park Rotary	Presented Information on Project
May 8, 2006	Maitland City Council	Presented Information on Project
May 11, 2006	Maitland City Staff	Discuss Project with staff
May 15, 2006	Maitland Mayor	Project presentation and discussion
May 18, 2006	Winter Park Mayor and staff	Project presentation and discussion
May 22, 2006	Maitland City Council	Presented information on Project
May 22, 2006	Orlando Business Journal	Presented information on Project
June 2, 2006	LYNX	Project update and discussion
June 5, 2006	FTA	Project update and discussion
June 9, 2006	MPO Alliance	Project update and discussion
June 12, 2006	Maitland City Council	Attended and answered questions
June 14, 2006	MetroPlan	Presentation and discussion
June 26, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
July 10, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
July 26, 2006	Met with Marcos Marchena	Project Update
July 26, 2006	Met with LYNX	Project Update
July 31, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail	Attended and answered questions

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
	Task Force	
July 31, 2006	Point of Contact group (reps. From Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties, Metroplan Orlando, Volusia County MPO, LYNX and VoTran)	Project update and discussion
August 2, 2006	Public announcement of Agreement in Principle with CSXT	Informational announcement
August 2, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion of pending announcement
August 2, 2006	FTA – Orlando	Project update, discussion and field tour
August 2, 2006	Orlando Sentinel	Project presentation and discussion
August 3, 2006	Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer	Project presentation and discussion
August 8, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
August 9, 2006	Commissioner Paul Owen, Osceola	Project presentation and discussion
August 9, 2006	Orange Commissioner Mildred Fernandez	Project presentation and discussion
August 11, 2006	Seminole County staff	Project update and discussion
August 14, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and provided information
August 14, 2006	Seminole Commissioner Carlton Henley	Project presentation and discussion
August 14, 2006	Seminole Commissioner Brenda Carey	Project presentation and discussion
August 15, 2006	Orange Mayor Richard Crotty	Project presentation and discussion
August 15, 2006	Seminole County Television	Project presentation and discussion
August 15, 2006	Orange Commissioner Bob Sindler	Project presentation and discussion
August 16, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Frank Bruno and city staff	Project presentation and discussion
August 16, 2006	Seminole Commissioner Randy Morris	Project presentation and discussion
August 17, 2006	Seminole Commissioner Dick Van der Wiede	Project presentation and discussion
August 18, 2006	Orlando Commissioner Robert Stuart	Project presentation and discussion
August 18, 2006	Orlando Commissioner Patti Sheehan	Project presentation and discussion
August 18, 2006	Orlando Commissioner Betty Wyman	Project presentation and discussion
August 18, 2006	Orlando Commissioner Phil Diamond	Project presentation and discussion
August 18, 2006	Maitland City Council and CRT Task Force	Project presentation and discussion
August 18, 2006	Winter Park Business Journal	Project presentation
August 18, 2006	Winter Park Chamber Update	Project presentation and discussion

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
	Luncheon	
August 21, 2006	Orange Commissioner Teresa Jacobs	Project presentation and discussion
August 21, 2006	Orange Commissioner Bill Segal	Project presentation and discussion
August 21, 2006	Orange Commissioner Linda Stewart	Project presentation and discussion
August 21, 2006	Orlando Commissioner Sam Ings	Project presentation and discussion
August 23, 2006	FTA – Atlanta	Discuss Project
August 28, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Joie Alexander	Project presentation and discussion
August 28, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Jack Hayman	Project presentation and discussion
August 28, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Art Giles	Project presentation and discussion
August 28, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Carl Persis	Project presentation and discussion
August 29, 2006	Seminole Commissioner Bob Dallari	Project presentation and discussion
August 31, 2006	Osceola Commissioner Tom Franklin	Project presentation and discussion
August 31, 2006	Osceola Commissioner Ken Smith	Project presentation and discussion
August 31, 2006	Osceola Commissioner Bill Lane	Project presentation and discussion
August 31, 2006	Osceola Commissioner Ken Shipley	Project presentation and discussion
September 5, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and provided information
September 11, 2006	Orange Commissioner Homer Hartage	Project presentation and discussion
September 11, 2006	Orange City Mayor and City Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 11, 2006	Longwood Mayor and City Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 11, 2006	Seminole County Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 12, 2006	FTA – Orlando	Project update and discussion
September 13, 2006	Winter Park Mayor and Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 14, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update discussion
September 15, 2006	Kissimmee Mayor and Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 18, 2006	City of Sanford Mayor and Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 19, 2006	Altamonte Springs Mayor and Manager	Presented Information on Project
September 19, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Dwight Lewis	Project presentation and discussion
September 19, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Bill Long	Project presentation and discussion
September 19, 2006	City of DeBary Mayor and Manager	Project presentation and discussion
September 21, 2006	FTA – Orlando	Project update and negotiations
September 21, 2006	Maitland Chamber of Commerce	Attended and answered questions
September 25, 2006	Maitland Mayor and City officials	Presented information on Project

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
September 25, 2006	Lake Mary Mayor and City Manager	Presented information on Project
September 27, 2006	Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission	Presented information on Project
September 27, 2006	Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority	Presented information on Project
September 27, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion
September 29, 2006	Winter Park Merchants Association	Presented information on Project
October 2, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
October 3, 2006	Lake Mary Mayor and Manager	Project presentation and discussion
October 4, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion
October 5, 2006	Central Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Assoc.	Presented information on Project
October 5, 2006	City of Orlando	Project update and discussion
October 6, 2006	Volusia County	Project update and discussion
October 9, 2006	Maitland City Council	Presented information on Project
October 10, 2006	Winter Park Towers Retirement Community	Presented information on Project
October 11, 2006	MetroPlan Orlando	Presented information/Project update
October 11, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion
October 12, 2006	Orange County Staff	Project update and discussion
October 17, 2006	Longwood staff	Project update and discussion
October 23, 2006	Orange County staff	Project update and discussion
October 24, 2006	Seminole County Commission	Project update
October 25, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
October 25, 2006	Maitland Task Force	Attended and answered questions
October 26, 2006	Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce	Senior staff briefing
October 31, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
November 1, 2006	Utility Users Group	Presented Information on Project
November 2, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion
November 2, 2006	Winter Park representatives	Project update and discussion
November 2, 2006	City of Maitland	Project update and discussion
November 3, 2006	Leadership Seminole	Project presentation and discussion
November 6, 2006	Florida Association of Public Transit	Presented Information on Project
November 8, 2006	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion
November 8, 2006	Seminole Regional Chamber of Commerce	Presented information on Project
November 9, 2006	DeLand Chamber of Commerce	Project presentation
November 9, 2006	Orange County representatives	Project update and discussion
November 10, 2006	Winter Park Chamber of Commerce	Project presentation
November 10, 2006	Volusia County representatives	Presented information on Project
November 14, 2006	West Volusia Chamber of Commerce	Project presentation

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
November 15, 2006	Maitland Task Force	Attended and answered questions
November 16, 2006	Winter Park Task Force	Attended and answered questions
November 17, 2006	Osceola Chamber of Commerce	Project presentation and discussion
November 28, 2006	Volusia County MPO	Project update and discussion
November 28, 2006	West Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Project presentation and discussion
November 29, 2006	Maitland representatives	Project update and discussion
November 30, 2006	Winter Park Task Force	Attended and answered questions
December 4, 2006	Winter Park Public Workshop	Presented and answered questions
December 5, 2006	Orange County Commission Workshop	Attended and answered questions
December 6, 2006	Winter Park Public Workshop	Presented and answered questions
December 8, 2006	Pinellas County Chairman Coordinating Group	Project presentation and discussion
December 11, 2006	Volusia County representatives	Project update and discussion
December 12, 2006	Transit-Oriented Development Workshop with city and county representatives	Presented options for discussion
December 13, 2006	Seminole Business Group	Project presentation
December 13, 2006	Leadership Orlando	Project presentation
December 14, 2006	Winter Park Commuter Rail Task Force	Attended and answered questions
December 15, 2006	FTA	Project update and discussion
December 18, 2006	Orange Commissioner Fred Brummer	Project presentation and discussion
December 18, 2006	Orange Commissioner Tiffany Moore	Project presentation and discussion
December 19, 2006	Volusia Commissioner Andy Kelly	Project presentation and discussion
December 19, 2006	Seminole Commissioner Mike McLean	Project presentation and discussion
December 20, 2006	FTA	Project update and discussion
January 3, 2007	Winter Park Economic Development Board	Project update and discussion
January 7, 2007	Winter Park Coffee Klatsch	Project presentation and discussion
January 8, 2007	Hillsborough MPO	Project presentation
January 9, 2007	Winter Park Task Force meeting	Attended and answered questions
January 10, 2007	Myregion.org	Presented and answered questions
January 12, 2007	Winter Park Chamber	Presentation and panel discussion
January 16, 2007	Public Hearing on Commuter Rail in Volusia and Seminole Counties	Presented project information and received comments
January 18, 2007	Public Hearing on Commuter Rail in Orange and Osceola Counties	Presented project information and received comments
January 22, 2007	Volusia Commissioner Pat Northey	Project presentation and discuss
January 24, 2007	Winter Park meeting	Discussed potential station site with mayoral appointees
January 25, 2007	West Orlando Rotary Club	Project presentation and discussion

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
January 31, 2007	Maitland Task Force meeting	Attended and answered questions
January 31, 2007	Osceola County and City of Kissimmee	Project update and discussion
January 31, 2007	Volusia County Manager James Dinneen	Project update and discussion
February 5-7, 2007	FTA/PMOC Workshops	Project presentation, update, discussion and field tour
February 6, 2007	Longwood Rotary Club	Project presentation and discussion
February 8, 2007	Leadership Winter Park	Project presentation and discussion
February 12, 2007	Winter Park Rotary Club	Project presentation and discussion
February 12, 2007	Maitland City Council	Voted in support of a station stop pending resolution of Orange County funding issues
February 12, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop - Orlando	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 12, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop - Maitland	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 12, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop-Winter Park	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 13, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop - Orlando	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 13, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop – Volusia	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 13, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop - Osceola	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 14, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop - Osceola	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 14, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop - Sanford	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 14, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop – Lake Mary	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 14, 2007	Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce Leadership Alumni Board	Project presentation and discussion
February 14, 2007	MetroPlan Orlando	Project update and discussion
February 15, 2007	Tri-County League of Cities	Project presentation and discussion
February 15, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop – Longwood	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 15, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop – Altamonte Springs	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 15, 2007	Transit-Oriented Development workshop – Orange County	TOD workshops with host counties and cities along planned route
February 19, 2007	Environmental Community briefing	Project presentation and discussion
February 19, 2007	LYNX	Project briefing
February 20, 2007	Deltona Mayor Dennis Mulder	Project presentation and discussion
February 21, 2007	Point of Contact Group	Project update and discussion
February 22, 2007	Orlando Chamber Small Business Board	Project presentation and discussion
February 22, 2007	Tampa Bay Planners	Project presentation and discussion
February 23, 2007	Maitland Men's Club	Project presentation and discussion

Date	Community/Organization	Regarding/Action
February 25, 2007	Orange County Kite Festival	Manned booth; distributed information
February 26, 2007	Winter Park Breakfast Rotary Club	Project presentation and discussion

Note: Bold text identifies Governmental Agency's adoption of resolutions supporting the Project.

Media Outreach and Publicity

Project information also was disseminated through the local media. The information was in the form of news releases, informational packets, video clips, brochures, fliers and stories. Dozens of news stories have been aired and printed about the Project, including 19 print media stories currently posted on the Project website. Media contacts preceded important public meetings and at key milestones. Project staff conducted numerous media interviews for television, radio and Internet broadcast, as well as newspaper and magazine publication. Project staff maintained an e-mail list of about 50 Central Florida media contacts in print, television and radio. The following media were notified about public notices, news releases, news items and/or offered interview availability:

Table 6.4: Media Distribution List

Media advisories	
Publication/station	E-mail
Daytona Beach News Journal	Bob.koslow@news-jml.com
Osceola News Gazette	borben@osceolanewsgazette.com
Observer Newspapers	carole@observernewspapers.com
Orlando Business Journal	cbarth@bizjournals.com
Orlando Sentinel/Volusia	Dcollins@orlandosentinel.com
WESH-TV	desk@wesh.com
WKMG-TV	desk@wkmg.com
Seminole Chronicle	editor@seminolechronicle.com
UCF News	editor@ucfnews.com
WLOQ – radio	efoster@wloq.com
CBS – radio	Erica.lee@cbsradio.com
East Orange Sun	graphics@eosun.com
Ocala Magazine	heather@ocalamagazine.com
WIND – radio	Hunter@windfm.com
Orlando Sentinel/Seminole	jbabinchak@orlandosentinel.com
Entravision	jdieppa@entravision.com
Orlando Sentinel/Lake	jfallstrom@orlandosentinel.com
Orlando Sentinel/transportation	jhamburg@orlandosentinel.com
Orlando Business Journal	jkrueger@bizjournals.com
Ocala Star Banner	Joe.bynes@starbanner.com
93.7 – K Radio	Kathy@937Kcountry.com
Orlando Weekly	letters@orlandoweekly.com
Kearney Publishing	Lisa@kearneypublishing.com
DeLand Beacon	margi@delandbeacon.com
Cox Radio	marsha@coxradio.com
98.1 – Radio	megan@98.1.com

CBS Radio	Mel.taylor@cbsradio.com
Daytona Beach News Journal	metro@news-jrnl.com
540 – WFLA Radio	news@540wfla.com
Apopka Chief	news@apopkachief.fdn.com
Fox – WOFL	news@foxwofl.com
SCT News	news@sctnews.com
WDBO – Radio	news@wdbo.com
WFTV – TV	news@wftv.com
CFNews 13	news@cfnews13.com
East Orange Sun	newsdesk@eosun.com
Daytona Beach News Journal	News-tribune@news-jrnl.com
Leesburg Daily Commercial	patmccarthy@dailycommercial.com
WMFE – Radio	pduggins@wmfe.org
Daytona Beach News Journal	Peggy.ellis@news-jrnl.com
Clear Channel	Signe.huff@clearchannel.com
Seminole Herald	sparadis@seminoleherald.com
Orlando Sentinel/Seminole	spedicini@orlandosentinel.com
Star News	Starnews@aol.com
102 Jamz – Radio	taina@102jamzorlando.com
News Leader	Thenewsleader@cfl.rr.com
Ocala Star Banner	Tom.mcniff@starbanner.com
West Orange Times	wotimes@aol.com

- Newspapers – Display advertisements were placed in local community and metropolitan newspapers with the largest daily circulation in the area. The newspapers included: Orlando Sentinel, El Sentinel; Osceola News Gazette; Daytona Beach News Journal; DeLand Beacon, and La Prensa.
- Radio and Television Stations – In addition to the local area newspapers, local radio and television stations were sent Project news releases. The radio and television stations identified include:

RADIO			
Call Letters	Station Frequency	Call Letters	Station Frequency
WCFB	94.5 FM	WMFE	90.7 FM
WDBQ	580 AM	MNGF	107.7 FM
WHTQ	96.5 FM	WMMO	98.9 FM
WJHM	101.9 FM	WPYO	95.3 FM
WLOQ	103.1 FM	WQTM	740 AM
WRLZ	1270 AM	WSHE	100.3 FM
WTKS	104.1 FM	WWBF	1130 AM
WWKA	92.3 FM	WXXL	106.7 FM
WUCF	89.9 FM	WKRO	93.1 FM
WLRQ	99.3 FM	WJRR	101.1 FM
WOMX	105.1 FM	WOCL	101.1 FM
WCIF	106.3 FM	WAOA	107.1 FM
WGNE FM Country	98.1 FM	WQIO	1240 AM
WTLN	1520 AM		

TELEVISION			
Call Letters	Station Number	Call Letters	Station Number
Orange TV	----	WESH - NBC	2
ABC - WFTV	9	WOFL - FOX	35
Telemundo	40	WKMG- CBS	6
WKCF - WB	18	WMFE - PBS	24
WRBW - UPN	65	WACX TV 55	55
WTGL - IND	52	NEWS 13 - CFN	13

6.3 CFCRT Public Hearings

Public hearings on the EA were held January 16, 2007 in Volusia and Seminole Counties and January 18, 2007 in Orange and Osceola Counties to give the public an opportunity to express views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed Project. The public hearings were held at the following locations:

Table 6.5: CFCRT Public Hearings

Date/Time	Location
Jan. 16, 2007 6 p.m.	Volusia County City of DeBary Florence K. Little Town Hall 12 Colomba Road DeBary FL 32713
Jan. 16, 2007 6 p.m.	Seminole County Eastmonte Civic Center 830 Magnolia Drive Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Jan. 18, 2007 6 p.m.	Orange County Sheraton Orlando-Downtown Hotel 60 South Ivanhoe Blvd. Orlando, FL 32804
Jan. 18, 2007 6 p.m.	Osceola County Kissimmee Civic Center 201 East Dakin Avenue Kissimmee, FL 34741

Public hearing notifications were sent to all those on the Project mailing list, as well as to the media. The www.cfrail.com website was updated to include scrolling banner notification on the website's home page about the upcoming public hearings. A Public Hearings page was added to the website, where the EA was posted for public inspection. Public comment also was solicited on the Public Hearings page, and public hearing locations were prominently displayed.

A legal advertisement for the public hearings was published in the *Florida Administrative Weekly* and display advertisements were published twice each in the following publications: The *DeLand Beacon*, the *Daytona Beach News Journal*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, *El Sentinel*, *La Prensa* and the *Osceola News Gazette*.

A total of 526 people signed attendance sheets at the four public hearings – 159 in Volusia County; 73 in Osceola County; 110 in Orange County; and 184 in Seminole County. The public hearings included a description of the Project Corridor, proposed station locations and potential environmental impacts as documented in the EA. Participants had more than an hour to review Project boards that included large scale aerial photographs of the entire Project Corridor with the Project alignment, proposed station locations and major community facilities identified. Project team members were available at all locations to answer questions and assist the public, as were FDOT right-of-way acquisition professionals. The formal portion of the Public Hearing included a 9-minute video about the Project; a Power Point presentation that included maps and graphical illustrations; as well as the aforementioned Project boards. Large scale renderings of the prototypical station designs were also available for review.

Project flyers also were made available. As stated earlier, those flyers included proposed route maps, station locations, parking and maintenance facilities, phased implementation of the Project, detailed information about proposed train technology and key facts about the benefits of freight traffic reduction, grade-separate crossings, and mobility enhancements included in the Agreement in Principle with CSXT.

Two court stenographers were available to take public comment and record the proceedings; comments forms were distributed and collected at all Public Hearings, as well as by mail and e-mail; and the public was given an opportunity to speak orally about the Project at each Public Hearing. Public comments were received through January 29, 2007.

In general, the comments received through the public hearing process were favorable, though some expressed concern about cost, route location and the potential relocation of private property owners, among other issues.

A total of 25 people provide statements during the public comment portion of the Public hearings. Eighteen people spoke in support for the commuter rail, four were against and three were noncommittal. Comments received in support of the project focused on how the commuter rail would assist in reducing traffic, it should be extended to other major employers like Disney and the Airport, and it is just the starting point. The comments received against the project centered on noise and cost.

Following the public hearing, 50 written comment forms were filled-out and submitted via mail. Approximately 35 were in favor of the commuter rail, 10 against, and 5 were noncommittal. An additional 142 comments or questions were submitted via the website. Approximately 40 of these comments were in favor and 6 were against. The vast majority of the comments (58) were requests for additional information. A total of 21 were property owners requesting information on the potential for land sales or purchase.

The court transcripts, comments cards and website comments from each of the four public hearings are included in the Comments and Coordination Report.

6.4 Agency Coordination

This section provides a summary of the coordination with local, state, and federal agencies during the course of the EA phase of development for the CRT Project. These

coordination activities focused on the Advance Notification process and the coordination during the study process.

6.4.1 Advance Notification

To ensure open communication and agency input, FDOT provided an Advance Notification (AN) package to state and Federal agencies and interested parties in January 2005. The AN package provided a summary definition of the Project and described the anticipated issues and impacts in general terms.

On January 28, 2005, FDOT formally transmitted the AN, for the CRT Project through Osceola, Orange, and Seminole Counties in accordance with Executive Order 83-150. The purpose of the AN, is to inform Federal, state, and local agencies of the proposed action by FDOT. The AN process provides the initial opportunity for Federal, state, and local agencies to become involved early in the Project development phase and share information with FDOT concerning a proposed action and the geographic area potentially impacted. A copy of the AN is on file with the FDOT District 5 office. The AN letter and mailing list is contained in Appendix H.

Responses to the AN letter were received from the following parties

- Volusia County Traffic Engineering
- Volusia County Director of Fire Services
- Seminole County Engineer
- Volusia County Schools Intergovernmental Coordination Director
- Kissimmee Director of Aviation
- METROPLAN Orlando Executive Director
- NOAA Southeast Regional Office Assistant Regional Administrator of Habitat Conservation Division
- City of Maitland Transportation Engineer
- City of Sanford Chief of Police
- Miccosukee Tribe NAGPRA and Section 106 representative
- Volusia County Director of Growth and Resource Management
- US Coast Guard Seventh Coast Guard District Associate Bridge Management Specialist
- City of Kissimmee City Manager
- Federal Aviation Administration Orlando Airports District Office – Program Manager
- Department of Health and Human Services, US Public Health Service
- City of Orlando City Planning Director
- Kissimmee Neighborhood Planner/City Preservation Planner
- US Fish and Wildlife Service South Florida Ecological Services Office – Field Supervisor

- City of Lake Mary City Manager
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Responses to the comment letters received were prepared by FDOT and sent to the individuals who commented on April 18, 2005. Copies of the comments and responses are on file with the FDOT District 5 office.

6.4.2 Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

Correspondence detailing a cultural resource assessment methodology and area of potential affect (APE) for the CRT Project was prepared for the Project in February 2005 and reviewed with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO determined in a subsequent telephone conference with FDOT and the consultant team that the proposed methodology adequately defined the areas of potential impact (APE) for the Project.

A Draft Cultural Resources Assessment Survey Report² (CRAS) was prepared for the CRT corridor and submitted to the SHPO in October 2005. SHPO review of the Draft CRAS concluded that there are four properties identified in the Draft CRAS that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and additionally, a portion of the CRT rail corridor is also potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP.

A corridor site visit was conducted with the SHPO staff on January 5, 2006 to review the potential effects of station construction on nearby significant historic properties at six locations. Locations visited and the associated historic resources included: DeLand Amtrak (DeLand ACL Railroad Station); Florida Hospital (Orange Avenue Commercial District); LYNX Central Station (Harry P. Leu, Inc.); Church Street (Downtown Orlando Historic District); Orlando Amtrak/ORMC (Orlando ACL Railroad Station); and Kissimmee Amtrak (Kissimmee ACL Railroad Station, Kissimmee Historic District – NRHP-listed).

In a letter sent to FDOT by Florida Division of Historical Resources dated March 23, 2006 (Appendix E), SHPO commented:

“The improvements proposed at the DeLand Amtrak, Church Street, and Orlando Amtrak/ORMC sites do have the potential to adversely affect the surrounding historic properties. It is our understanding that your office will continue to consult with our staff regarding sensitive design solutions that will avoid and/or minimize impacts to these significant resources. Of specific concern are the design, materials, and locations of the canopied platforms at these three sites as well as the addition of parking lots and ancillary features at the DeLand Amtrak station. “

“We look forward to further consultation with your office throughout the design phase of this Project and appreciate your willingness to discuss avoidance and/or minimization in order to prevent any adverse effects to these properties.”

² *Draft Cultural Resources Assessment Survey Report for the Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit Environmental Assessment*, September 2005.

FDOT, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and in consultation with the SHPO, has determined that the proposed action will have no adverse effect on the DeLand ACL Railroad Station (8VO2653), the Orlando ACL Railroad Station (8OR139), the Old Orlando Railroad Depot (8OR25), and the Downtown Orlando Historic District (8OR422). Refer to Appendix E for a copy of the letter received from SHPO dated March 9, 2007.

The following commitments have been made to ensure that potential adverse effects are avoided or minimized:

1. Provide design plans of the proposed DeLand Amtrak, Orlando Amtrak/ORMC and Church Street stations at the 30, 60, and 90 percent stages of completion for SHPO review and comment. The FDOT will coordinate with the SHPO office so that potential visual and aesthetic effects to the above-mentioned historic properties (8VO2653, 8OR139, 8OR422 and 8OR25) can be avoided or minimized. The plans will show the exact location of platforms and other improvements, including proposed parking areas. The SHPO will have a period of 30 days upon receipt of acceptable plans to complete their review.
2. Provide a sensitive design treatment for the three proposed stations and will ensure that the design, materials and locations of station platforms and canopies are architecturally and aesthetically compatible with the design of nearby historic resources.
3. Consult with SHPO office to determine appropriate landscaping treatments designed to reduce the potential visual effects of parking lots and ancillary features at the proposed stations.
4. Make every reasonable effort to maintain the rural character of the DeLand Amtrak Station through the use of environmentally compatible elements, such as vegetative screening, in the design of parking lots and sidewalks.
5. Make every reasonable effort to minimize physical alterations to the historic properties. Where required, alterations will be made in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (36 CFR Part 68).
6. Should there be any changes to previously reviewed and agreed upon design plans, FDOT will contact SHPO and provide the opportunity for review and comment. The SHPO will have a period of 30 days upon receipt of acceptable plans to complete their review.

FDOT will continue to coordinate with SHPO to avoid and/or minimize impacts to surrounding historic resources at the above mentioned stations. FDOT has a long lasting relationship with SHPO and will continue to work with the agency during the design phase to ensure that all concerns raised by the agency are addressed.