DENTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

The Public and Location of Rail Stations
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Background Information

• Alternatives Analysis (AA) 2005

• Rail Corridor
  – approximately 21 miles long

• Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
  – Draft Completed July 2007
PROJECT OVERVIEW
Public Involvement Plan - Purpose

• Inform the public and keep them up-to-date.

• Provide opportunities for the public to participate in decisions, including station locations.

• Maintain established coalitions and develop consensus for the preferred alternative.

• Fulfill statutory requirements under NEPA.
PROJECT OVERVIEW
Public Involvement Plan - Approach

- Groups
  - Public
  - CAG
  - TAG

- Meetings
  - General
  - Roundtables
ROUND TABLE PROCESS
Overview

- Tailored discussions to information needs
- Illustrated possible station and facility locations
- Allowed for input on land use decisions
- Progressively eliminated options –
  - 3 stage process
ROUNDTABLE PROCESS
Participants and Notice

• Technical

• TAG/CAG

• Public
ROUND TABLE PROCESS

Stage I – March-April 2006

- Technical Roundtables
- Introduced station and facility options
- Public working session
- Aerial maps to illustrate surrounding area land uses
- Areas divided into subdivisions
  - Table for each geographic area
ROUNDTABLE PROCESS

Stage II – June-July 2006

• Technical Roundtables
• Options refined from stage I
• Public meeting served as Roundtable
• Display easels with prompts for comments
ROUND TABLE PROCESS

Stage III – August - September 2006

- Technical Roundtables
- Options eliminated
- Public Roundtables consisted of presentation about station locations and concepts to move forward
ROUND TABLE PROCESS

Other Activities

- Local elected officials invited to roundtables
- Presentations to city councils throughout process
- City councils provided information about public feedback
- Workshops on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) involved city councils
ROUND TABLE PROCESS

Participation Results

- 245 people took part in Public Roundtables
- Land use comments, preferences brought forward
- City councils adopted resolutions
ROUNDTABLE PROCESS
Lessons Learned

– Conduct more technical roundtables – redefine participants
– Conduct first public session as “roll-up sleeves” working roundtable; follow-on gatherings can take form more like public meetings
– Do more in terms of education about TOD with local elected officials, and/or conduct roundtables only for elected officials
– Don’t hold a public roundtable on a beautiful Saturday morning in April in North Texas
ROUNDTABLE PROCESS
Take-Away Strategies

– Leverage contacts of technical staff to connect with local organizations and/or local elected officials

– Offer opportunities to learn about TOD early in the process to local elected officials, and local organizations, and offer follow-on information

– Make questions asked of public focused and simple to understand (such as What do you like about this station concept?)
ROUNDTABLE PROCESS
Next Steps

– Utilize this process during design phase to help engage group in deciding station design and theme
– Leverage partnerships and relationships built to help communicate during construction phase.
– Follow up on TOD opportunities and surrounding land uses
– Continue level of communication throughout remainder of the project.