

CHAPTER 6.0

COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

A public involvement program was implemented to ensure that information was provided to the general public and public agencies from the earliest stages of project planning and that input from interested parties was received and reviewed throughout the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The primary components of the program included:

- Scoping Meetings (Agency and Public held on April 23, 2001),
- Public Workshop (October 16, 2002),
- Public Information Meetings (July 12th and 13th, 2005), and
- A Public Hearing following release of the DEIS (July 12th and 13th, 2005).

In addition, newspaper advertisements were used to inform the public of changes, progress, and status of the study. Keeping the public informed and obtaining their input was considered an integral part of the process. The following summarizes the public involvement process.

6.2 SCOPING MEETING

6.2.1 SCOPING NOTIFICATION

Notification of the scoping process for this EIS was accomplished in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements. A variety of methods were used to inform agencies and the public about the EIS scoping process for the study.

Federal Register Notice of Intent - The FAA published a notice in the Federal Register on Monday, March 12, 2001 which included the Letter of Intent to prepare an EIS at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). The Notice of Intent summarized the proposed developments and FAA's requirements under NEPA for preparation of an EIS. A copy of the notice is provided in [Appendix G](#).

Advertisements - Advertisements announcing the FAA scoping process and providing notification of the scoping meetings were published in the local newspapers serving the study area on Saturday, April 14, 2001 and Saturday, April 21, 2001. Copies of the advertisements are provided in [Appendix G](#).

6.2.2 SCOPING MEETINGS

Two scoping meetings were accomplished at the Holiday Inn Select Phoenix Airport on Wednesday, April 23, 2001 as part of the EIS scoping process for this study. An agency scoping meeting was held in the afternoon, which was followed by a public scoping meeting in the evening. Court reporters were present to record all testimony given in the two meetings. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation was shown, a handout was distributed, and presentation boards were displayed at both meetings that

summarized the proposed action as well as the scoping and EIS process. The handout is provided in [Appendix G](#) of this FEIS.

Agency Scoping Meeting - A scoping meeting specifically for Federal, state, and local governmental agencies was held at the Holiday Inn Select Phoenix Airport on Wednesday, April 23, 2001 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The meeting was presided over by the FAA. A total of 16 people signed in at the meeting. The scoping meeting was preceded by a brief presentation by the FAA on the proposed project and the NEPA process after which a question and answer session was held. Comment forms were available for participants to submit written comments either at the meeting or by mail to the FAA Project Manager by May 14, 2001.

Media Briefing - An informal scoping meeting specifically for the media was held at the Holiday Inn Phoenix Airport on Wednesday, April 23, 2001 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. A total of 3 people signed in at the meeting. The media briefing began with a PowerPoint presentation of the scoping process and the proposed action by the FAA. Following the presentation, the media was invited into an adjoining room where numerous presentation boards were available for public review.

Public Scoping Meeting - An informal format scoping meeting specifically for the general public was held at the Holiday Inn Phoenix Airport on Wednesday, April 23, 2001 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. A total of 6 people signed in at the meeting. The scoping meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation of the Scoping process and the proposed action by the FAA. Following the presentation, the public was invited into an adjoining room where numerous presentation boards were available for public review.

Representatives of the FAA, the City of Phoenix Aviation Department, and the FAA's consultant team were also available to discuss the Scoping Process, and the proposed action, as well as to answer any questions from the public. Comment forms were available for participants to submit written comments either at the meeting or by mail to the FAA Project Manager by Monday, May 14, 2001. In addition, three court reporters were present to take verbatim comments from any person attending the meeting.

6.3 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

6.3.1 MAILING LISTS

A mailing list was compiled and utilized over the duration of the project to distribute notices of public participation activities. The list consisted of Federal agencies, State of Arizona elected officials and agencies, Maricopa County officials, local organizations, and individuals that attended the public workshop or requested to be on the mailing list.

6.3.2 MEDIA COORDINATION

To reach a wider audience, a media list was compiled and utilized to send press releases and newspaper advertisements announcing public participation events. Newspaper advertisements were published in the *Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Business Gazette*, and *LaVoz* newspapers prior to the public information meetings and public hearings.

6.4 PUBLIC WORKSHOP/INFORMATION MEETING

6.4.1 OCTOBER 16, 2002

A public workshop on the proposed project was conducted on October 16, 2002. The workshop was held between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Select Phoenix Airport. The workshop was intended to inform the public about the EIS process and the project status, receive comments, and respond to questions.

The workshop was conducted in an informal, open-house format. A variety of methods were used to provide information to the public including board-mounted graphics and handouts. Airport representatives and the consultant team were available for one-on-one discussions with the public. [Appendix G](#) provides information about the workshop, including notification materials and sign-in sheets.

There were 9 registered participants at the workshop. The subjects covered during this workshop included an overview of the EIS process, project description, project purpose and need, alternatives, and general discussions concerning environmental impact categories (i.e., noise, air quality, etc) to be evaluated as part of the EIS.

6.4.2 JULY 12TH AND 13TH, 2005

Public information meetings on the DEIS were conducted on July 12th and 13th, 2005 at the Phoenix Airport Marriott and Wesley Community Center, respectively. The information meetings were held between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Advertisements for the information meetings were published in the *Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Business Gazette*, and *LaVoz* newspapers.

The public information meeting was conducted in an informal, open-house format. A variety of methods was used to provide information to the public including board-mounted graphics and handouts. Subjects covered during the public information meetings included an overview of the EIS process, the Proposed Project, purpose and need of the project, potential alternatives, and discussions concerning environmental impact categories (i.e., noise, air quality, etc) evaluated in the DEIS. Airport representatives and the consultant team were available for one-on-one discussions with the attending participants to receive and respond to comments and questions.

There were 19 registered participants at the July 12th meeting and 5 registered participants at the July 13th meeting. [Appendix G](#) provides information about the public information meetings, including notification materials, sign-in sheets, handouts, comment forms, and speaker registration.

6.5 DEIS AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

The DEIS was available for review by the public for a period of 45 days (June 10, 2005 to July 26, 2005). Notification of the document's availability was accomplished through advertisements and press releases in the local media. The document was made available for review at the locations listed in [Chapter 7.0](#). Anyone wishing to comment on the DEIS was provided an opportunity to do so either in writing during the 45-day review period or in person at the public hearing. The DEIS was also distributed to Federal, state,

and local agencies which have jurisdictional responsibility or an interest in the study. The list of these agencies is also provided in [Chapter 7.0](#). These agencies had a period of 45 days to respond on the DEIS.

Based on a request from a local agency, FAA extended the comment period for the DEIS for the proposed improvements at PHX from July 26, 2005 to August 10, 2005. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers to inform the general public and other interested parties. This extension provided agencies and the public with an additional 15 days to review the DEIS.

FAA responded to all reasonable comments received from the public and agencies on the DEIS during the review period. Summaries of the comments received, responses, and any necessary revisions to the EIS have been published in this FEIS.

6.6 PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearings on the DEIS were conducted on July 12th and 13th, 2005 at the Phoenix Airport Marriott and Wesley Community Center, respectively. The public hearings occurred from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Advertisements for the hearings were published in the *Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Business Gazette*, and *LaVoz* newspapers.

The public hearings provided agencies and the public an opportunity to provide comments directly to the FAA representative. The public hearing was presided over by a hearing officer and recorded via a certified court reporter. A Spanish/English interpreter was also available to attendees as necessary.

There were 19 registered participants at the July 12th hearing and 5 registered participants at the July 13th hearing. [Appendix G](#) provides information about the public hearings, including notification materials, sign-in sheets, and speaker registration.

6.7 FEIS AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

The appendices of the DEIS have been expanded to include summaries of the comments received during the review period and responses to those comments. The body of the report has been updated as necessary to reflect comments received. According to FAA Order 1050.1E, FAA can make a final decision to act no sooner than 30 days after the EPA notice of availability is published in the Federal Register. At the conclusion of the waiting period, FAA issues the final decision in a Record of Decision (ROD).