

## 16.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

### 16.1 Public Involvement

The Notice of Intent for the I-93 Improvements Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was published in the Federal Register on March 12, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 49, pages 13272-13273). In accordance with 23 CFR 771.130(d) and 40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4), scoping was not reinitiated for the SEIS. The scope of the SEIS was determined based on the specific issues identified in the court order and the reevaluation of the 2004 FEIS.

During the preparation of the Draft SEIS (DSEIS), public information meetings were held on March 18 and 19, 2008 in Londonderry and Salem, respectively. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the public of the current status of the project, explain the SEIS process and analysis scenarios, and present preliminary traffic analysis results. In total, approximately 33 people attended the meetings. Information on the DSEIS, including the presentation shown at the meetings, was made available on the project website ([www.rebuildingi93.com/](http://www.rebuildingi93.com/)).

Upon completion of the DSEIS, FHWA provided copies of the document to the EPA Office of Federal Activities and issued a notice of availability (NOA) in the Federal Register, consistent with NEPA. The NOA provided notice of the public comment period that began on August 17, 2009 and ended on October 1, 2009.<sup>1</sup> In response to requests for comment period extension, the comment period was extended to October 9, 2009, for a total duration of 53-days. The DSEIS was distributed to federal agencies, state agencies, regional agencies, municipalities in the Delphi study area and other individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in the project during previous public involvement activities or by commenting on the 2004 FEIS (See Chapter 17: Draft SEIS Distribution List). The DSEIS was also made available for public review at local libraries and through the project website. There were a total of 111 written comments received during the comment period, either by mail, email or submitted through the project website.

A public hearing was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Derry Municipal Center. The public hearing was noticed through advertisements in local newspapers and the project website. The date, time and location of the public hearing was also provided on a note distributed with hardcopies and CD-ROMs of the DSEIS. The public hearing included a presentation on the results of the DSEIS and an opportunity for public comment. A total of twelve individuals provided verbal comments at the public hearing.

Copies of all the written comments received and the public hearing transcript are provided in FSEIS Appendix A: Comment Response Document. This appendix also documents NHDOT's and FHWA's responses to substantive comments.

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<sup>1</sup> The DSEIS was filed with the EPA Office of Federal Activities in time to appear in the August 14, 2009 edition of the Federal Register. However, the NOA was published August 17, 2009 and listed the comment period end date as September 28, 2009. An amended NOA listing the comment period end date as October 1, 2009 was published in the Federal Register on August 21, 2009.

## 16.2 Agency Coordination

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has continued to conduct extensive coordination with federal and state resource agencies since the release of the 2004 FEIS. This coordination has addressed issues such as the design of the project stormwater treatment practices, and the status of project mitigation commitments. Coordination has also occurred with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, and the Rockingham Planning Commission regarding the regional emissions sensitivity analysis (See Chapter 5: Air Quality). Agencies that received a copy of the 2002 DEIS, 2004 FEIS, the DSEIS or commented on the DSEIS will be provided a copy of the FSEIS for review (See Chapter 17: Final SEIS Distribution List).