



**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SMALL GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM MTG #2 – MAY 18, 2009**

The small groups, after reviewing the data and discussing it, made the following recommendations. (Similar recommendations are grouped together.)

Public Meetings

- Provide multiple maps at public meetings.
- Be sure to avoid community events [when scheduling meetings]
- Have a better dialogue, not lectures
- Accept opinions and information of public as part of the public input process. Do not ignore public comments – do more than tolerate them.
- Movable message signs are good.
- Submit the number of comment cards per meeting with the PI data.

Outreach

- Study should provide more official-looking notices – a letter instead of a postcard.
- Continue to use multiple media outlets to get information out about the public meetings.
- Notification of affected¹ property owners needs to be improved. Be sure to have a good way to communicate with affected landowners. (A suggestion at meeting: Contact all affected property owners by phone. If they are unreachable by phone then make a visit to their home till they are reached.) Certain property owners were still not aware of what was going on.

Elected Officials

- Keep elected officials involved by inviting them to TF meetings. Insure open communication with elected officials, and environmental agencies, and others

¹The Information Committee asked that “affected” include anyone whose property or business falls within the study area designated by the yellow “doughnut” on the study maps.

interested in the process – to and from them. They [elected officials] should be visible at the public meetings.

Environmental Information

- More education and information regarding:
 - NEPA and Section 106 synopsis
 - 1906 Antiquities law and Texas antiquities laws to date
 - Noise abatement
 - Biological studies
 - Hydrology studies
- Address alternatives to a loop up front.

Community Information

- Provide more information to the public on the consequences of building the loop – tax issues, property evaluations, environmental impacts, etc.
- Have data and maps posted in public places for viewing.

Other

- Recommend holding two [Task Force] meetings regarding the environmental process and data.
- Have a list of the criteria developed with the public input [for the Task Force].

Additional- at the request of the Information Committee

- Written information and someone to answer questions about right of way acquisition should be available at the public meetings. A designated table for the right of way information and several staff to answer questions is more appropriate later in the process than for this study.